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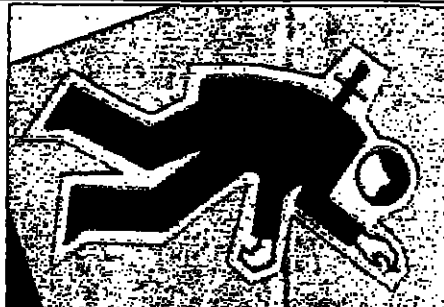
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Life & Times, page 5



LOSING OUT TO FEMINISM

Domestic violence is
not a male prerogative,
says Neil Lyndon

Life & Times, page 1



VICTORY FOR A REAL ZOO

Only more vulgar
attractions will
bring in the crowds

Life & Times, page 5

No 10 hints at further reduction

German rate cut raises few market hopes

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, TOM WALKER AND GEORGE SIVELL

FOREIGN exchange markets reacted with disappointment yesterday to the Bundesbank's decision to reduce its key lending rate by 0.25 per cent, but the government held out the distant prospect of lower British interest rates.

Officials in Brussels and leaders around Europe praised the cut, less than a week before the French referendum on the Maastricht treaty, as an example of co-operation in the European Community. German officials voiced confidence that it would stimulate support for a "yes" vote.

Opponents of the treaty denounced the cut as too little, too late and said that it was designed primarily to boost the French "yes" vote, rather than to help to revive ailing economies. Politicians and the markets had been led to expect a more substantial cut.

when the intention to change rates was announced on Sunday night in conjunction with the devaluation of the lira. The Lombard emergency-funding rate was cut by only 4 point to 9.5 per cent. However, the Bundesbank said that the interest rates normally paid by banks in their money market operations would be reduced by 0.5 per cent to 8.2 per cent from tomorrow onwards.

Foreign exchange reaction to the German cuts was mildly favourable, with the pound climbing away from its floor against the mark and the dollar recovering against the mark and the pound. But the pound immediately hit its floor against the newly devalued Italian lira and foreign exchange dealers said that the Bank of England had to intervene.

The Italian devaluation and German interest rate cuts were a response to weekend talks after European central banks spent DM24 billion on keeping the lira in line last week.

Downing Street sought to extract the maximum political capital from the Bundesbank's decision to reduce its lending rate. "It has probably brought forward the time when British rates can move," a spokesman said. Treasury officials made clear that any cut in rates would depend on a strengthening of sterling in the exchange-rate mechanism.

Although Tory backbenchers were initially disappointed at the minimal nature of the Bundesbank move, there was satisfaction in Whitehall that the markets had given a generally favourable response, with sterling closing more than two pence higher and the stock market jumping more than 50 points.

Giving a hint of likely movements in interest rates, Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, said: "The significant thing is that the direction is now clearly downwards after speculation over the summer that rates might be going up

or at least not be reduced until the spring."

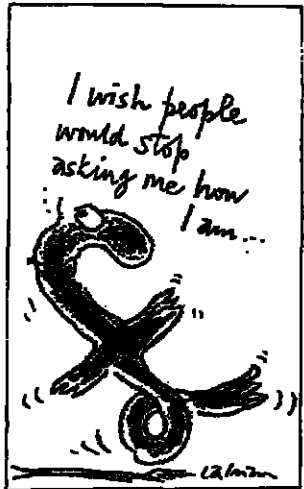
John Smith, the Labour leader, called for an early cut to follow the German lead. But building societies cautioned strongly against expectations of an early mortgage rate cut.

In a surprisingly forthright assessment of the German move, Downing Street sources said that the cut in the Lombard rate strengthened the chances of a corresponding domestic shift which would ease the burden on mortgage-holders and businesses. Officials are normally reluctant to speculate on future interest rate movements, but this convention was put to one side as Whitehall launched a concerted effort to sell the German move as a vindication of European monetary co-operation.

Pointing to weekend headlines predicting a base rate rise this week in advance of the French referendum, a senior Treasury source said that the "world had been turned on its head" by the Bundesbank's move.

Downing Street rejected suggestions that the 0.25 per cent cut was insignificant, continued on page 16, col 2

Full analysis, pages 2-3
Peter Riddell, page 12
Leading article, page 13
Breathing space, page 17



On your marks: traders at the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange reacting to the Bundesbank announcement

After the lira, how vulnerable is sterling?

GOVERNMENTS always lie about devaluations and central bankers are paid to deceive investors. So the string of promises broken by the Italian government and commitments abandoned by the Bundesbank over the past two days, should hardly have been surprising.

Italy's devaluation would have no bearing on the credibility of John Major's promises never to devalue sterling. The Bundesbank's humiliating U-turn on monetary policy would be quickly forgotten; relations between the German central bank and the governments that run the European exchange-rate mechanism would become smoother than ever before.

That, at least, was how some of the oddly glibly cynical in the City argued yesterday morning. But financial markets are usually more intelligent than the people who work in them. In their mysterious collective wisdom, they are likely to draw a number of more dramatic conclusions from the weekend's events.

Anatole Kaletsky says that confidence in official promises will be further undermined by the deal between the Bundesbank and the Italian government, with wide consequences for sterling and the ERM

First, a sterling devaluation is now much more likely than it was 48 hours ago. The foreign exchange markets have proved themselves much stronger than politicians, even when governments have been co-operating in a carefully structured system.

The ERM was designed to avoid precisely the events that occurred last week. When realignments used to occur in the ERM, the timing was supposed to be chosen by politicians, not forced by the markets. But Sunday's manoeuvre was a clear case of financial necessity. A worldwide run on the lira had drained the \$60 billion of international reserves once held by the Bank of Italy to a paltry \$10 billion or so, leaving the central bank almost bust.

If the markets could drain Italy's reserves, they could do just the same to Britain's. At around \$40 billion, these are actually smaller, especially in relation to the amount of trading in sterling, than were Italy's.

Even if Mr Major were willing to put his prime ministership at stake to defend sterling's ERM exchange rate, he could no more guarantee the Bank of England against a run on sterling than King Canute could command the tides. Until Sunday night this was not entirely clear. The ERM was supposed to offer its member nations the omnipotence Canute knew he did not possess. ERM members were supposed to enjoy a guarantee of mutual support.

The Bundesbank could in theory offer unlimited resources to combat a run on any of the weak currencies, simply by flooding the market with marks.

In Italy's case, however, the ERM's promises of unlimited support proved to be hollow — and the Bundesbank's price for maintaining its co-operation was the devaluation announced on Sunday night. There is no reason to suppose that the Bundesbank would treat Mr Major's promises not to devalue as any more sacrosanct.

The second important conclusion from Sunday's realignment is that, even if another devaluation is avoided in the near future, the present ERM rates are no longer fixed in stone. Until Sunday night, the ERM had managed to defend its member currencies against realignments for five years. Investors and politicians became accustomed to the assumption that currencies would remain unchanged for the indefinite future.

But if the French vote "no" in their referendum on Maastricht, the entire mechanism

Continued on page 16, col 5

Editor told 'to lie'

The editor of the *Daily Mirror* was ordered to lie by the late Robert Maxwell, its publisher, to protect Nick Davies, the paper's then foreign editor, who was later sacked.

An industrial tribunal was told that when Richard Stott refused the order from Maxwell he was threatened with dismissal. Page 5

Rugby charge

Gary Rees, the England rugby player, broke the jaw of a teacher during a friendly match, it was alleged at Kingston Crown Court. Rees, 32, denies inflicting grievous bodily harm. Page 6

Lonely life

More people in Britain live alone than ever before and the number is forecast to be nearly eight million by the end of the century. Page 7

Policy stand

The Liberal Democrat MP David Alton will not stand again for the party, in protest at a decision to make abortion a policy issue rather than a matter of conscience. Page 8

Royal award

The Prince of Wales will present awards today to community groups who have improved their surroundings. The scheme is sponsored by *The Times*, the Royal Institute of British Architects and Business in the Community. Page 24

Bomb enquiry scientists divided

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS reviewing the forensic evidence in the Annie Maguire bomb factory case are divided over the likelihood that the defendants' hands could have been innocently contaminated by nitroglycerine.

The divisions were disclosed yesterday when the scientists' report was published with the re-opening of the enquiry by Sir John May, the former appeal court judge, into the Maguire Seven and Guildford Four cases.

The scientists were commissioned by Sir John after controversy over how tests for nitroglycerine on the seven proved positive.

At the trial in 1976, scientists claimed that nitroglycerine had been found on the hands of six men and on the gloves of Mrs Maguire. It was claimed that traces of the explosive under fingerprints could only have been caused by the defendants kneading

explosive. Two years ago during hearings by Sir John the independent adviser to the enquiry. The contamination could have come from something like a towel used by someone in the Maguire home in north London and the Crown had also failed to show that the chemical which proved positive in tests was nitro-glycerine. The Court of Appeal

Continued on page 16, col 1

Vance shocked by snub

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CYRUS Vance, the United Nations peace envoy, expressed shock yesterday at the refusal of President Izetbegovic of Bosnia to take part in talks in Geneva on Friday.

Fred Eckhardt, the UN spokesman, said the Bosnian leader had given Mr Vance a "solemn personal commitment" to attend and he was still expected to do so or send representatives. Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, also threatened that he would not attend.

Fighting flared in Sarajevo yesterday, and a French officer with UN forces there said heavy firing came from seven of the 11 positions where Serbian weapons were concentrated for UN monitoring. Colonel Armand Davout was not certain who had fired first, but suggested that the Serbs might have fired in response to Bosnian infantry attacks aimed at breaking the Serb siege of the city.

Sarajevo boycott, page 9

Coffee, tea and sympathy with Mr Mellor

BY TIM JONES

THE daughter of an executive member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation said in the High Court yesterday that David Mellor, the heritage minister, used to visit her in one of her London homes to chat over tea and coffee.

Mona Bauwens, 31, is suing for libel over an article in *The People* which disclosed details of a holiday that Mr Mellor and his wife and children spent with her in a villa she rented in Marbella during the Gulf conflict. She claims the article cast her as a "social outcast and leper".

The court heard that Mr Mellor's airline tickets for the holiday at the villa had been paid for by Mrs Bauwens. Afterwards Mr Mellor was telephoned by Mark Thomas, a *People* reporter, who had doorknocked the villa. In a transcript of a telephone conversation with the reporter, Mr Mellor said he was "not the least bit embarrassed" about his holiday arrangements and advised the reporter "as an old soldier" to be careful about any adverse comments he might write but said if he was determined he should "publish and be damned".

Mrs Bauwens said she first met Mr Mellor at a Medical Aid for Palestine charity dinner in 1988 and met his wife about a week later.

George Carman, QC, for the defence, asked whether it was correct that she saw Mr Mellor alone more frequently than she saw him with his wife. She answered: "I wouldn't say that was necessarily right."

Mr Carman: "Is it right Mr Mellor visited you on a social basis in the daytime without his wife?"

Mrs Bauwens: "Oh yes, he would drop around at Chesterfield House and have a cup of tea or coffee."

Mr Carman asked whether she had visited a flat provided for Mr Mellor by the government in Kings Yard, Mayfair. He dropped the question after he was asked by Mr Justice Drake what its relevance was, but said it went to the development of the friendship between Mr Mellor and Mrs Bauwens.

The article described Mrs Bauwens' father, Jaweed Al Ghusseini, as the PLO's "paymaster" and asked Margaret Thatcher, then the prime minister, "just what would make your minister blush with shame". Mrs Bauwens said: "This article says very clearly that, because I am my father's daughter, no decent person, including a government minister, should be with me."

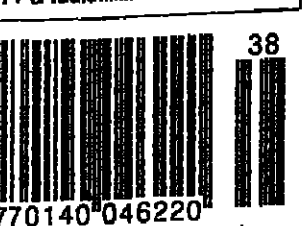
The People, its former editor Richard Stott, Mr Thomas and Mirror Group Newspapers deny libel. The trial continues.



Mellor: airline tickets "were bought for him"

Photograph, page 5

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1X

Why homebuyer must wait for lenders to act

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

YESTERDAY'S cut in German interest rates is unlikely to bring any immediate relief to homebuyers.

Lenders are waiting for a reduction in British bank base rates before they will consider a cut in mortgage rates and the bank rate cut will have to be more than the German 0.25 percentage point reduction.

Abbey National, the second largest mortgage lender, said: "Today's German rate cut was less than was

being trailed. We are watching but not waiting." The bank was not expecting any imminent base rate cut.

MORTGAGES

Bank base rate is at 10 per cent and standard mortgage rates are around 10.65 per cent. Special offers on large loans and to first time buyers are lower.

The Building Societies Association said the Bundesbank cut was "a signal in the right direction". It was not expecting a reduction in mortgage rates until base rates come down and even then a small cut in bank base rates might not bring any mortgage reduc-

tion. Building societies have been in strong competition with National Savings all year for savers' money and cannot afford to make their savings rates uncompetitive. The Halifax Building Society, the largest mortgage lender, said yesterday that it was waiting to see if there would be any change in bank base rates and for the outcome of the French referendum on the Maastricht agreement.

Lenders have almost given up on the housing market for 1992. There was barely a perceptible improvement in sales during the spring and summer. A cut in October would be too late to affect the market before next spring.

Lenders were reluctant to talk in detail about when the next mortgage rate move might be and whether it would be down or up, for fear of being wrong. They agreed that it was too early to say whether the German move would lead to a mortgage rate cut.

When Britain entered the European exchange rate mechanism, mortgage rates were 15.4 per cent. Standard mortgage rates are now 10.65 per cent.

Market-makers take heat out of trading

By MICHAEL CLARK

IN THE electronic depths of London's stock market, it was the market-makers sitting at their banks of screens who had the unenviable task of controlling the violent fluctuations in share prices when dealings resumed after the Italian devaluation and subsequent softening of German interest rates.

The deal struck between the European finance ministers at the weekend took

market-makers and brokers by telephone, they display the price at which they are prepared to buy and sell a particular security via their computer screens.

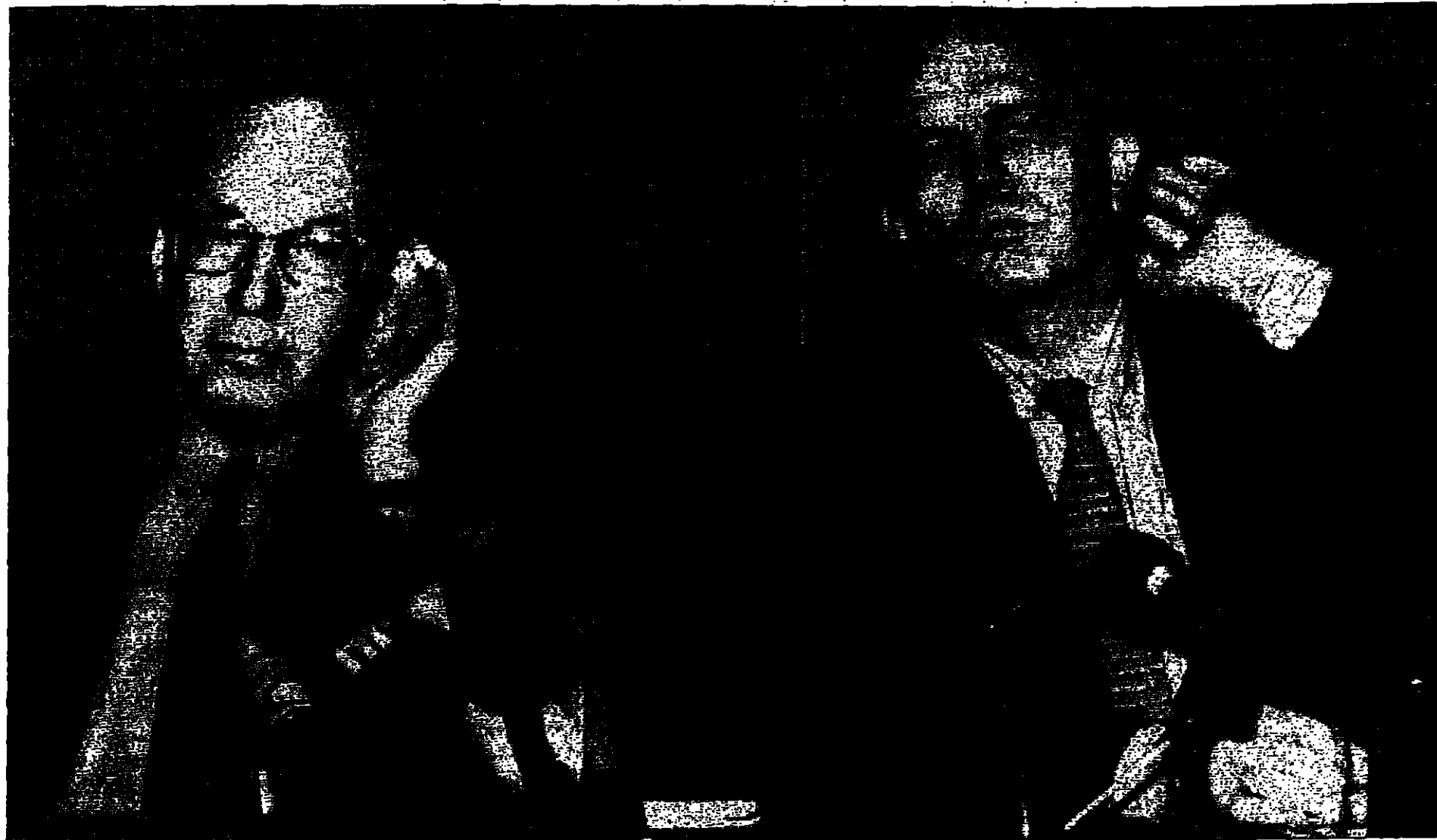
Since the general election last April, the stock market has been in steady decline with the economy slipping deeper into recession. The first move of market-makers at 8am yesterday was to mark prices sharply higher in order to deter the expected avalanche of buying from investors cheered by hopes of a softening of interest rates. The absence of buying orders showed that the market-makers' tactics had worked.

IN THE CITY

Violent price fluctuations can be financial suicide for market-makers if they are caught wrong-footed in a trading situation. By the close of business last night, most of the big firms were hailing yesterday's actions as a success. No one had made or lost or fortune. All of them would be back in business this morning.

Market-makers are the market wholesalers who buy and sell stocks in companies. They dictate events on the stock market from day to day. Talking to other

Behind armed guards, in a concrete HQ, they threw a lifeline to the lira



The listening Bundesbank: Helmut Schlesinger, left, the bank president, and Hans Tietmeyer, his deputy, answer questions in Frankfurt yesterday

George Brock and Wolfgang Munchau tell how six weeks of secrecy ended with a truculent Bundesbank forced into a decision to shave the base rate

At 9.30 yesterday morning, anxious politicians and frightened investors around the world were waiting for the words of one man.

Helmut Schlesinger, the quiet professorial president of the Bundesbank, had promised to reveal the true nature of the deal he had hatched in secrecy over the weekend with the governments of the 12 EC countries. At 9.50 the world was still waiting. Twenty minutes is a long time when at stake are hundreds of billions of pounds and the fates of governments.

While Herr Schlesinger remained locked in the Bundesbank's council chamber, selling his deal to the 17 other fiercely independent Bundesbank directors, his spokesmen could reveal only one thing to the waiting reporters. All rumours to the effect that Herr Schlesinger had resigned were totally false.

The moment was one of many elements of black comedy since the meeting little more than a week ago in rain-soaked Brockton Hall in Hertfordshire, when the European Community's foreign ministers had solemnly agreed that a "No" vote in next Sunday's Maastricht referendum in France would be an "earthquake".

As the ministers flew back to their capitals, officials of the Community's secretive Monetary Committee were already putting the finishing touches to an announcement designed to prevent a different quake that had already started to rumble. On Friday, the Bank of Italy and the Bundesbank had spent many billions of marks in a fruitless attempt to stop the lira touching its ERM "floor" as investors and multinational companies dumped their lire.

Herr Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, had had enough — and the Bank of Italy agreed. Something had to be done to stop the run on the lire, even if it meant swallowing the solemn prom-

ises not to devalue. The communiqué from Brussels unleashed a burst of political and financial optimism designed to give the "Yes" campaign in France a much-needed boost. By breakfast-time yesterday, financial markets were zig-zagging wildly at the prospect of a substantial rate cut and impressed by the politicians' apparent mastery of Germany's truculent central bankers.

When the rate figures skidded across the dealing room screens, the audience was disappointed. The Lombard, similar to Britain's base rate, was cut by only a quarter of a percentage point. The discount rate fell by only half a point.

The initial agreement to act had been reached on Sunday, during telephone conversations between Herr Schlesinger and the members of his central council. Judging by later events, the plan was not approved unanimously. The rate cut seems to indicate a subtle shift in the balance of power in the central council away from the hardliners and towards the moderates.

The eventual agreement to cut the Lombard rate by only a quarter of a point indicates strongly how hard was the bargaining that preceded Herr Schlesinger's final belated appearance.

Why had the hardliners lost? The week's trading had shown beyond any doubt that central banks could not take

much more. On Tuesday, Finland decoupled the mark from the rest of Europe, devaluing for the second time in a year. The next day, Sweden put up short term interest rates to 75 per cent, desperate not to follow the Finnish devaluation. Money was pouring into Germany. The Bundesbank could take no more without risking its role as the fiercest inflation-fighter in the world.

The roots of the crisis go back to the early summer. The ground beneath the politicians' feet had been shaken on June 2, when 50,000 Danish voters swung their national referendum against the Maastricht treaty. President Mitterrand of France was so sure that the Danish result was an aberration that he promptly astonished his ministers in Paris by calling a referendum designed to split his conservative opposition and to put the treaty on monetary and political union back on track.

The effects of his mistake have been felt in every dealing room in Europe for the past month. The French socialist government's campaign for the treaty has been trivial, confused and late into the field. Just after lunch on Tuesday 25 August, when most of Europe was still on the beach, the traders in the Paris bourse heard word that the next day's papers would carry the first poll showing a narrow majority for the anti-Maastricht campaign.

The poll turned up the heel on a currency system that was already struggling to retain its credibility in the face of a brutal recession. Seeing for the first time a real chance that European monetary union might once again be postponed, traders began selling the ERM's weakest members, the lira and sterling, and buying reliable marks.

The Bank of Italy compounded the trouble by an expensively ambitious attempt to intervene and hold the lira to within 1 per cent of its



Business as usual: Norman Lamont arriving at the Treasury yesterday

central rate against the mark. The chance of a realignment hovers over any strain in the ERM, and Italy's representatives on the EC's Monetary Committee took soundings several weeks ago on the possibility of adjusting rates. They received the regular refusal from Paris. For four years, the French government has been the sternest defender of the ERM's rigorous discipline. Paris insists that the system be preserved as a stable training ground for currencies en route for total merger.

But the Maastricht treaty's timetable for a single currency had been laid down by politicians and not by bankers. EC governments, France foremost among them, saw economic and monetary union as the best restraint available for a newly reunified Germany. The signing of the treaty loaded heavy assumptions about eventual switch to a single currency onto a fragile system for stabilising exchange rates. The events of the last ten days have discovered the limits of the system. A "No" in France may test the ERM to destruction.

The pound was under pressure alongside the lira, defended by a combination of assertions by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that there would be neither domestic devaluation nor ERM realignment. By the time that EC finance ministers gathered for an informal weekend in Bath nine days ago, many of them were facing rising tides of criticism at home over high interest rates and unemployment. Commentators and harassed ministers laid the blame at the door of the German central bank. The grimes of Zurich, favourite scapegoats of cartoonists and politicians in the 1960s, have been replaced by the Bundesbank backwoodsmen.

The Bundesbank operates from purpose-built concrete headquarters in a drab northern suburb of Frankfurt, which is surrounded by armed guards. Inside the main room, the 17 men meet every other Thursday in a ritual that decides the fate of Germany's, and of late also Europe's, economics. Once appointed to what is normally a seven-year term, the council members can no longer be dismissed, a measure designed to guarantee independence.

Almost absolute power over interest rates has given this council its almost legendary mystique. No two economists ever agree totally on economic policy, and this is also true of the Bundesbank's council members. It appears to be the case that the regional representatives tend to be the most hawkish.

The most notorious of the hawks is Lothar Müller, head of the state central bank in Bavaria. At a private speech he gave in Italy recently, he gave a vigorous and uncompromising defence of Germany's tough interest rate policy, arguing fiercely and somewhat undiplomatically that Germany was not going to rescue those who do not help themselves. The Italian hosts were not amused, but in the end Herr Müller was wrong.

By yesterday morning, it was clear that the Bundesbank had to be dragged kicking and screaming into cutting its rate. Herr Schlesinger himself said that the decision was "dictated by foreign circumstances".

What really matters is that the German Bundesbank will become a more co-operative player in European economics. The German central bank will remain Europe's most important central bank, but it will no longer play the role of the bogeyman, the role of the unassailable, all-powerful institution that loves to be despised by the others. While it would be an exaggeration to claim that the events prove

that the Bundesbank can be easily pushed around, it is true nevertheless that when under intense pressure from its political masters in Bonn, the Bundesbank caves in.

The man with perhaps the highest stake of all in the success of the French referendum is Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission and author of the timetable for monetary union. One of his advisers explained the symbolism of the realignment on Sunday night. "The campaign in France shows that what voters don't like is chaos in the currency markets, and the Community being able to do nothing about it. This is the Community acting together — acting incredibly together."

Next Sunday, the voters of France will issue their verdict on the management of Europe's monies.

Peter Riddell and Diary, page 12.
Leading article, page 13.
Breathing space, page 17.
Stock markets, page 20.
Italy's impotence, page 21.
Business Comment, page 21.

National Westminster Bank Interest Rates

National Westminster Bank announces the following interest rates, effective from 15 September 1992:

Savings			
Net Interest per annum		Gross Interest per annum*	Gross C.A.R.†
6.94%	Crown Reserve 3 Months' notice	9.25%	9.58%
6.75%	£50,000 and above	9.00%	9.31%
6.47%	£25,000 - £49,999	8.625%	8.91%
6.09%	£10,000 - £24,999	8.125%	8.38%
	£2,000 - £9,999		
6.47%	Premium Reserve Instant Access	8.625%	8.91%
6.19%	£25,000 and above	8.25%	8.51%
5.81%	£10,000 - £24,999	7.75%	7.98%
	£2,000 - £9,999		
4.31%	Special Reserve Instant Access	5.75%	5.88%
4.13%	£25,000 and above	5.50%	5.61%
3.94%	£10,000 - £24,999	5.25%	5.35%
3.75%	£2,000 - £9,999	5.00%	5.09%
	£500 - £1,999		
4.50%	First Reserve Instant Access	6.00%	6.14%
4.13%	£1,000 and above	5.50%	5.61%
3.75%	£500 - £999	5.00%	5.09%
3.38%	£250 - £499	4.50%	4.58%
3.00%	£100 - £249	4.00%	4.06%
	£50 - £99		
4.22%	Investment Account# 6 Months' Notice#	5.625%	5.70%
4.13%	3 Months' Notice#	5.50%	5.58%
	Monthly Income Account#§	5.50%	5.64%

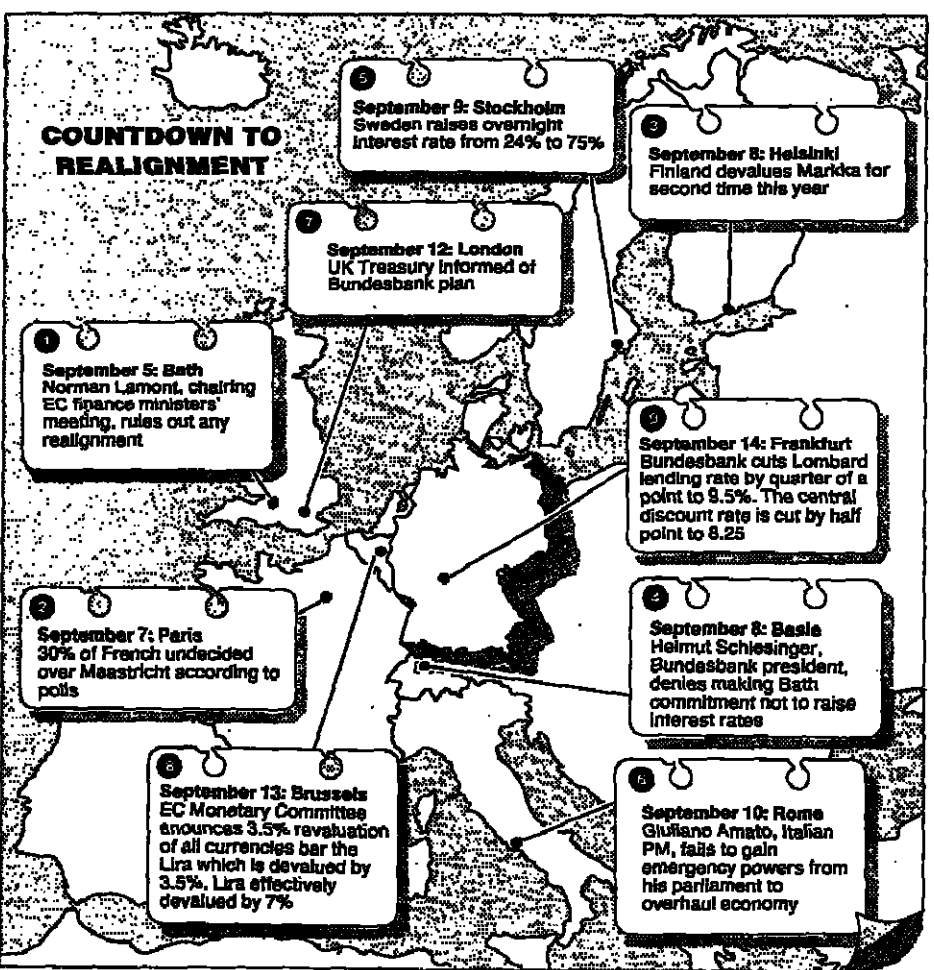
* Where appropriate, Basic Rate Tax will be deducted from interest credited or paid (which may be reclaimed by resident non-taxpayers). Subject to the required registration form, interest will be paid gross.

† Gross Compounded Annual Rate (C.A.R.) is the true annual return on your savings if the interest payments are retained in the account.

Existing Account Holders only.

§ Monthly Income Account effective from 1 October 1992.

National Westminster Bank Plc
41 Lothbury London EC2P 2BP



STATE OF VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA ELECTION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1992

How to Vote in Person

If you are travelling throughout Europe, Asia or the United States, you may vote at a Postal Voting Centre at selected Australian Embassies.

For the nearest Postal Voting Centre, telephone Miss Edwina Adams, Victoria House, London, or enquire at any Australian Embassy.

In the UK, you may vote in person during weekdays between 9.30am and 4.30pm at Victoria House, until 4.30pm on Thursday, October 1, 1992.

How to Vote by Post

You may apply for postal voting material to be sent to an address nominated by you. Applications are available from Victoria House.

Election Day, Saturday, October 3, 1992

Please note that there will be no voting facilities at Victoria House on Saturday, October 3. Voting, either by post or in person at Victoria House, London will close at 4.30pm on Thursday, October 1, 1992.

Electoral Roll Enquiries

The roll for the 1992 State Election closed on August 28, 1992. Victorian electors may make enquiries in person regarding their enrolment at Victoria House.

Australian Embassies will not be able to answer enquiries regarding enrolment for the 1992 Victorian Election.

All enquiries should be made to Miss Edwina Adams.

G Ruffe
Postal Voting Officer
London

Victoria House
Melbourne Place
Strand
London WC2B 4LG
Tel: 071 836 2656

Paris hails Frankfurt for acting in the spirit of Maastricht



Delors: reassured the French markets

FRENCH pro-Maastricht leaders and the Paris financial markets yesterday greeted the drop in German interest rates as a potential life-saver in next Sunday's referendum as a prison strike and criminal charges against a senior Socialist further dented the tarnished image of the Mitterrand administration.

"They've put the interests of Europe ahead of their own interests. The spirit of Maastricht has prevailed over purely national interests," Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minister, said of Germany after prices on the depressed Paris stock market had jumped by 3.5 per cent in reaction to the Bundesbank's move. Michel Sapin, the finance minister, said: "A yes in Maastricht means the chance that we can drop our own interest rates."

M Bérégovoy's relief was echoed from Maastricht campaigners across the political spectrum as the campaign

FRANCE

The pro-Maastricht lobby is wooing voters with hints that French rates might also drop if they vote 'yes' on Sunday, Charles Bremner writes from Paris

accelerated towards its climax with an outbreak of political infighting. The prime minister also reassured the markets that President Mitterrand was fast recovering from his prostate operation last Friday and was effectively running the country from his hospital bed.

The Bundesbank's cut in the Lombard rate may only have been a quarter of a per cent, but as a gesture it could not have been more powerful, given that Germany has been brandished by the "no" campaigners as a bullying bogymen who will walk over a weak France if Maastricht is approved. German intran-

sience had badly hampered the efforts of the "yes" campaign to portray a future Europe of sweet harmony. Milking the political profits to a maximum, M Bérégovoy said French interest rates would not be touched until after the referendum and, of course, if the vote is no, the financial crisis will probably obliterate any benefit.

The good news from Frankfurt, reported by *Le Monde* under the headline "Bundesbank Votes Maastricht", diverted some heat from the two big embarrassments for the Mitterrand administration. With electoral opinion report-

ed to be highly volatile and almost evenly split, the fate of Europe could hang on such domestic vagaries. Officers in almost all the country's prisons vowed to continue a three-day old strike in spite of an approaching showdown with the government. Riot troops were called in to restore order in several prisons. Michel Vauzelle, the justice minister, declared the officers' action, prompted by fears for their security, illegal. Their complaints that the government is soft on crime are playing into the hands of the right-wing "no" campaign, led by Charles Pasqua, the Gaullist, Philippe de Villiers, a dissident member of the centrist UDF and Jean-Marie Le Pen, the chief of the extremist National Front. M de Villiers is depicting a mass breakout at the Clairvaux prison on Friday as typical of the kind of criminal anarchy that would follow implementation of the

Maastricht treaty.

The timing yesterday of the indictment of Henri Emmanuelli, the parliamentary speaker, could not have been worse for the Mitterrand administration. M Emmanuelli was charged by an investigating judge in Brittany with receiving stolen funds and influence-selling on behalf of the Socialists. The charges involve his time as party treasurer in a period when it is alleged to have financed its campaigns through kick-backs from firms in return for public contracts.

Though widely expected, the action reopens the saga of financial corruption that tainted the Socialists in the late 1980s. M Bérégovoy and his government have denounced the judge's action as politically motivated and pledged their support for M Emmanuelli. After leaving the judge's office, M Emmanuelli said he was the victim of a political plot.

The Socialist's case was not

helped by the publication of claims yesterday by a senior figure involved in the scandal that he had paid bills, some for M Mitterrand, and helped feed slush money from businessmen to the party. The allegations were made by Michel Rey, the head of one of two Paris consultancy firms used by the Socialists. He was released last Thursday after 200 days in detention during which he was questioned by the same Breton judge, Renaud Van Ruymbeke. M Rey, who faces charges of influence selling, said M Mitterrand's party had made him a scapegoat. He said he had acted as a middleman between businessmen in search of contracts and party leaders. "Once the head of a company won the contract, the politicians would say to them: 'Monsieur, perhaps you should say thank you to the party,'" he told the daily *Le Parisien*. He said he had also

paid about £200 towards the printing of election posters for M Mitterrand in 1988 and the same for other members of his government.

On the other side of the spectrum, the chiefs of France's main right-wing parties intensified a campaign that has shunted European questions aside and assumed the tones of a combat for party leadership and eventually the presidency of France. Commentators concluded that Charles Pasqua, the Gaullist baron and crusader for a no vote, was making a bid to oust Jacques Chirac as chief of the neo-Gaullist RPR party.

A majority of party members disapproved of M Chirac's pro-Maastricht position. According to the pundits and pollsters, the outcome of the referendum hangs largely on M Chirac's ability to sway enough reluctant RPR voters over to his side of the fence to tip the balance.

Bundesbank lifeline leaves harassed MPs still treading water

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Bundesbank's decision to shave only 0.25 per cent off its key lending rate proved a disappointment to leading members of the pro- and anti-European factions inside the Conservative party.

Tory MPs have spent much of their summer recess being badgered by supporters and constituents protesting about the length of the recession and penal interest rates. Waking up yesterday morning to newspaper headlines predicting a shock cut in German lending rates, they must have thought Frankfurt had belatedly decided to throw them a lifeline. In the event, they found themselves still treading water.

John Townend, the Euro-sceptic chairman of the backbench finance committee,

said he was disappointed by the size of the reduction and suggested it owed more to President Mitterrand's political difficulties over Maastricht than Europe's economic woes.

More surprisingly, Peter Temple-Morris, a leading pro-European and MP for Leominster, also sounded battle weary. He believed most backbenchers would be disappointed the Germans had not been bolder in cutting borrowing costs. Although "something was better than nothing", he thought Brussels and its allies had oversold the move and it might have been better if they

had not rushed out a string of statements the night before.

"From the point of view of the French referendum, it gives the 'ants' more than the others. It underlines the reluctance of the Germans to bale people out," he said. Mr Temple-Morris added that the Deutschmark was becoming a single currency by default. The turmoil on the foreign exchanges underlined the case for pressing ahead more quickly with Maastricht and its Community-wide agreement on economic and monetary union.

But the prime minister brushed aside backbench doubts, holding out the prospect of lower United Kingdom interest rates as he sought to extract the maximum political advantage from the cut in the Lombard rate. In a surprisingly forthright assessment of the German move, Downing Street sources said that the 0.25 per cent reduction strengthened the chances of a corresponding domestic shift, which would ease the burden on mortgage-holders and businesses.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, was putting a brave face on the limited extent of the German cut. Aides said he was "not disappointed" by the Bundesbank's caution and the reduction showed that EC pressure could pay dividends. Mr Lamont was said to have been involved in Sunday's negotiations that led to yesterday's easing of German rates. "He has been going after this and he's got what he wanted," one source said.

Officials are normally reluctant to speculate on future interest rate movements, but this convention was put to one side as Whitehall launched a concerted effort to sell the German move as a vindication of European monetary cooperation. Pointing to weekend headlines predicting a base rate rise this week in advance of the French referendum on the Maastricht treaty on Sunday, a senior treasury source said the "world had been turned on its head" by the Bundesbank's move.

Downing Street led the propaganda offensive by rejecting suggestions that the 0.25 per cent cut was insignificant. People had had exaggerated expectations of the likely size of the Bundesbank reduction. It was the first time the Germans had lowered the cost of borrowing for five years and the direction of German rates was now "firmly downwards". "There has been a significant change of mood. We are now talking about reductions in rates throughout Europe," an aide said.

John Watts, the centrist Tory chairman of the all-party Commons treasury committee, was one of the few to catch Whitehall's mood, saying the German move was helpful as it indicated interest rates were on a downward path.

Mr Temple-Morris, however, was more sceptical. He said the move was "a bit of a let-down" and that the "yes" vote would be "a bit of a let-down" as well. He said the move was "a bit of a let-down" and that the "yes" vote would be "a bit of a let-down" as well.

But a string of floor speakers objected to the leadership line. Margaret Sharp, from Guildford, complaining of the de-industrialisation of Britain, said that Britain had entered the ERM at too high a rate. Ross Finnie, chairman of the party's Scottish economic panel, accused the party of apeing the views of the Bank of England, the Treasury and the Tories. The party was tying itself to a policy not for workers, but for exchange dealers.

But Baroness Seear, a Liberal Democrat treasury spokesman in the House of Lords, rebuffed delegates who demanded devaluation. Winding up the debate, she said: "It would immediately put up interest rates because people would be afraid that one devaluation would be followed by another."



Ring the changes: a City trader on hearing the announcement of the German cut

Dealers mark the occasion with suitably wild rumour

HAVING been unexpectedly promised a "significant and general" cut in German interest rates on Sunday night, many people in the City felt a little short-changed when the Bundesbank jiggled around in its pocket yesterday morning and came up with only a quarter-point reduction in the key Lombard rate.

It was like checking the football pools coupon on Sunday night to find you had eight score draws and then waking up after a restless night of anticipation to discover that millions of others had managed to tick eight score draws, too, and that the life-changing jackpot was not going to change your life after all.

London's currency dealing rooms were fuller than usual, earlier than usual, as traders braced for a jittery week before Sunday's French vote on Maastricht. By 7am, when Reuter screens are normally warming up, they had been glowing green for a while as dealers digested fresh news along with their croissants.

Some glowed more brightly than others. "The first I heard of it," said one of the City's top currency gurus, "was when I got home on Sunday night and a journalist was phoning for my reaction. 'To what?' I asked like a wally."

Far Eastern markets had already done the necessary arithmetic while Europe slept and by the time London started to trade, the dollar, the mark and sterling were already dancing in a new

THE CITY

Joe Joseph was up early to see the money men dancing to the Bundesbank's new tune

formation in response to the Italian lira's devaluation and the prospect of a cut in German interest rates. But the currency dealing room at Midland Montagu, overlooking the Thames, was still buzzing more loudly than usual with the babble of the bank's customers calling, customers asking to buy or sell currencies at yesterday's rates, traders buying and selling currencies with other traders around the world. A cut for all.

Then the shout rang out from David Simmonds, who tells the rest of Midland's foreign exchange traders where different currencies are heading. He announced that the Bundesbank had cut the Lombard rate, but by only a quarter of a point.

The signal could have been stronger: many had been expecting anything up to a one-point reduction. But some had braced for no cut at all in the Lombard rate, just a trim in Germany's less influential discount rate. At least it marked a turn in the road for German interest rates.

other, or down the black telephones clamped to their ears, the dealing room's usual reaction to tension.

"Sterling fell to 2.78 marks as a result of the cut being smaller than expected," said a dealer. "People are plunging into the dollar because there is a feeling that the differential between US and German interest rates is narrowing and is unlikely to widen. The dollar looks cheap against the mark."

The City then reacted the way it often does when it has been dished up some big news but still feels a little peckish: it invented a wild rumour. The story suddenly erupted that Helmut Schlesinger, president of the Bundesbank, had resigned at the shame of it all.

"We've never had the Bundesbank cutting its interest rates like this before," Mr Simmonds explained. "The Bundesbank has lost some of its credibility. That's what fed the resignation rumour."

It probably won't be the last rogue tale that hits the City this week. "I don't expect any immediate cut in UK interest rates," said Mr Simmonds as the mood around him turned from major to minor.

"We'll have to wait for the Maastricht vote in France. Being cynical, there is the possibility of a quarter-point interest rate cut in Britain just before the Tory party conference."

Sounds like something that will bring City dealers to their feet again.

Amato under fire for wasting funds

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALIAN newspapers criticised Giuliano Amato, the prime minister, yesterday for not opting for devaluation sooner, questioning whether his government is strong enough to handle the next phase of economic shock therapy.

"We can only hope that Amato returns to the determination and energy shown in the first days of his mandate," said Mario Pendenelli, the editor of *Il Messaggero*. "If this does not happen we could find ourselves faced with not only a government crisis but a crisis of the republic."

In the view of *Il Giornale*, of Milan, "this decision represents a defeat not only for the government and the Bank of Italy, who wagered their prestige on the defence of the old parity, but for the entire country, which has lost another slice of its already scarce credibility". *La Stampa's* headline said simply "Italy surrenders".

Corriere della Sera published a full column of 14 official denials of plans to devalue made since early August as the country was bled dry of 30,000 billion lire of currency reserves. The central bank had consistently opposed devaluation as potentially inflationary and a short-term palliative that would encourage the four coalition parties to shirk the deep cuts in government spending needed for Italy to qualify for European monetary union.

Some commentators said the devaluation may have helped Italians to understand the seriousness of their economic plight and could improve support for the request Signor Amato made last week for three years of emergency

powers to fine tune the economy without approval from parliament. *Il Giornale* said that "if he already had more powers, perhaps this debacle could have been avoided". Political experts agree that Signor Amato can only restore his battered prestige if he manages to push his demand for special powers through an unwilling parliament where he has only a 16 seat majority.

Luigi Abete, the employers' federation chairman, yesterday described devaluation as a "drug" that would be insufficient unless the government

ITALY

wields the axe on public spending in its budget for 1993, to be presented to parliament by the end of the month. Signor Amato has made a start by introducing sweeping reforms but many economists believe these do not go far enough.

Signor Amato was expected to address the Chamber of Deputies tomorrow to outline his request for emergency powers that he has revised after reservations by President Scalfaro. *Corriere della Sera* said that if he cannot revise his request convincingly he might as well resign.

The mood in parliament yesterday was far from tender. Maurizio Gasparri, of the neo-fascist Social Movement, poured scorn on Signor Amato's attempt to outline the positive aspects of the 7 per cent devaluation. "Presenting the drastic devaluation of the lire as a quasi success only because Germany has made a very slight reduction in the interest rate is deceiving public opinion," he said.



The case for joining the Army Legal Services.

Army Legal Services are looking for qualified lawyers to join in February 1993. It is a wide-ranging brief, taking in military, civil, criminal and international law.

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Army Officer



Temple-Morris move oversold by Brussels

The Docker would.

The Knocker wouldn't.

Ride a mountain bike on mountains.

Having made a fortune selling records, start an airline.

Kiss and not tell.

Work during Ascot week.
(But take a day off to go to your son's sports day.)

Carry a donor card.

Sell snails to the French.

Speak to foreign clients in their own language.

Appoint a woman managing director.

Take a bite on a barge in London Docklands.

Get our best artists to design our currency notes.

Take his wife to dinner. In Paris.

Become a vegetarian but for a life-long love affair with bacon sarnies.

Sponsor drama, opera, the arts.
(So long as they go on tour.)

Give a baby a cuddle, not a dummy.

Reverse the brain drain: hire American whizz kids.

Know where to find a bottle bank.

Make exploratory business trips to Eastern Europe.

Discover how easy it is to fly from London City Airport.

Use trainers to train in.

Rather talk to colleagues than write memos to them.

Take David Gower to India.

Drive an electric car.

Know how to open a can of beer when the ring pull has snapped.

Occasionally let children win at Snap.

Send grandparents' day cards.

Prefer to own a real painting by an unknown than a famous print.

Loop-the-loop for charity.

Never lose contact with a customer.

Or other companies' customers.

Know that 22 species of fish are to be found in the London Docks.

Queue overnight to get a seat at Wimbledon.

Encourage a child who wanted to be a drummer.

Share a bath to save water.

Make a short speech when winning an Oscar.

Forgive Bernhard Langer his missed putt to lose the Ryder Cup.

Know the saving in overheads by moving to London Docklands.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Legal chief orders 'gay justice' enquiry

Lord Rodger of Earlsferry, the Lord Advocate, yesterday ordered an enquiry into claims that the administration of justice may have been influenced by the presence of homosexuals within the Scottish legal system. He demanded that a copy of a confidential police report, saying that homosexuals within the legal system may have interfered with the course of justice by laying themselves open to blackmail, should be delivered to him. The Crown Office in Edinburgh said that the report, ordered by Sir William Sutherland, Chief Constable of Lothian and Borders police, was never submitted to the prosecuting authorities.

The report, leaked to a newspaper last week, named a High Court judge, two sheriffs and leading members of the legal profession. It detailed facts and speculation surrounding Crown Office decisions not to prosecute some cases and to abandon others. James Friel, regional procurator fiscal of north Strathclyde, and William Nimmo-Smith, QC, of the Scottish Law Commission, will undertake the review.

Injection took seconds

A consultant pharmacologist told Winchester Crown Court yesterday that the injection of undiluted potassium chloride given by Nigel Cox to an elderly patient would probably have killed her within 60 seconds. Andrew Herdheimer said it could have disturbed the heart's rhythm and caused it to stop. Dr Cox, 47, a rheumatologist at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, denies attempting to murder Lillian Boyes, 70, after she begged him to end her suffering. Albert Vincent, a consultant pathologist at the hospital, admitted that he signed a cremation certificate without examining Mrs Boyes' body and did not notice that the injection had been given. The trial continues today.

TV group cuts jobs

At least 100 jobs are to go at Yorkshire Television and Tyne Tees Television, the newly merged ITV companies that are thought to have overbid for their licences in last year's ITV franchise auction. The group employs 1,400 people, but industry sources believe that staff will have to be cut by almost half if the merged company is to break even. Clive Leach, group chief executive, said that the job losses would end duplication in administration and programme-making. Media, L&T section, page 7

Greenpeace 'alarmist'

Greenpeace is publishing alarmist propaganda about industrial pollution in rivers, the chairman of the National Rivers Authority said yesterday. Lord Crickhowell said that to achieve the Greenpeace target of zero pollution, Britain would have to return to the Stone Age. His comments came after a Greenpeace tour of the country which highlighted allegedly "legalised" polluting by companies holding NRA permits. Lord Crickhowell said the authority had reduced the amount of industrial effluent over the past three years.

Kerb-crawling charge

Professor Martin Harris, 48, vice-chancellor of Manchester University, is due to appear in court next month accused of kerb-crawling. Manchester magistrates confirmed yesterday that Professor Harris was listed to appear in court on October 6. Summonses are understood to have been issued, but not yet served. In a statement issued through the university, Professor Harris said: "I strenuously deny this charge and have no further comment to make." Professor Harris is married with two children.

Mirror editor says Maxwell told him to publish lies

By PETER VICTOR

THE editor of the *Daily Mirror* was ordered to lie by the late Robert Maxwell to protect Nick Davies, the foreign editor who was later sacked, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday. Richard Stott refused the order and was threatened with dismissal.

Mr Davies is claiming unfair dismissal from the paper. The tribunal was told that he destroyed his credibility by lying to Mr Stott and his colleagues after allegations that he had been involved in spying and arms dealing.

Mr Davies, 55, of Peckham, southeast London, was named as an Israeli spy in the book *The Samson Option*, by the American journalist Seymour Hersh. He was accused of being involved in the kidnapping of the Israeli anti-nuclear dissident Mordechai Vanunu. The book also alleged that he was involved in arms deals in 1985 while in Ohio.

The tribunal, in Chelsea, southwest London, was told that Mr Davies was in Harare, Zimbabwe, covering the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting when reports of the allegations broke on October 20 last year. He was telephoned by Tom Hendry, *Mirror* assistant editor, and read the entire chapter of Hersh's book that concerned him. Mr Davies dismissed the allegations, saying: "It was all nonsense." He denied that he had ever been to Ohio. The *Mirror* printed a

front-page denial and a leading article attacking the two MPs who had raised the matter in parliament.

On his return from Zimbabwe, Mr Davies was congratulating Mr Stott and other colleagues on a "wonderful job" in denying the claims when news came that the *Daily Mail* had a photograph of him meeting the wife of an arms dealer in Ohio. Asked to explain, Mr Davies thought for a moment and said that he now remembered the visit, the tribunal was told. He said that he did not realise that his comments would be published and that he had "inadvertently mis-stated" his denial.

Mr Stott told the hearing that he had come to the conclusion that Mr Davies had not been telling the truth. Matters came to a head when *The Sun* printed a story accusing Mr Davies of lying. Mr Stott contacted Maxwell in New York and the publisher had ordered him to print a leading article attacking *The Sun*. When Mr Stott refused to do this, Maxwell had "reacted rather violently".

Mr Stott said: "He said that if I didn't do it he would fire me. So I then exploded and said, 'That's bloody marvelous. You want to sack the innocent and protect someone who has lied.' Maxwell had then put the telephone down, but Mr Stott contacted him again and said that they should fire Mr Davies.

"The point to me was that Nick had not only lied to me and had continued to lie, but that the whole credibility of the newspaper was being put at stake. The newspaper trusted him implicitly... but he had betrayed a trust between an editor and a member of his staff."

Mr Stott said that, although Mr Davies' denial of meeting an arms dealer in Ohio had been a lie, he and other members of the *Mirror* staff did not believe that he had been involved in the "heinous" betrayal of Vanunu.

The case continues today.



Davies claims unfair dismissal from paper



Libel battle: Mona Bauwens, daughter of a PLO executive, at the High Court yesterday, where she is suing the publisher of *The People* for libel over an article about a holiday with David Mellor and his family. Report, page 1

Relatives lunge at killer joyrider

By RAY CLANCY

RELATIVES of two children killed by a teenage joyrider tried to attack the driver in court yesterday.

Rodney Klevan, QC, for the prosecution, was opening the case against Christopher Lewin, 19, at Liverpool Crown Court when two men jumped from the public gallery. They ran towards Lewin and his co-accused David Nnah, 21. A policeman nearly fell over and another banged his head against a wall as they struggled with court officials to restrain the men.

The court was told how Adele Thompson, 12, and her friend Daniel Davies, 9, were thrown into the air and suffered multiple injuries when the sports car skidded sideways for 100ft, mounted the pavement at 40mph and hit them as they collected pennies for bonfire night in the Toxteth area of the city.

Lewin pleaded guilty to two charges of manslaughter, unlawfully taking a car and driving while disqualified. Nnah pleaded not guilty to two manslaughter charges but admitted taking the car.

Both men were remanded in custody until September 25, when the judge will consider social enquiry reports before sentencing them. Nnah's not guilty pleas were accepted by the prosecution who said he had not driven the car.

VERDICT

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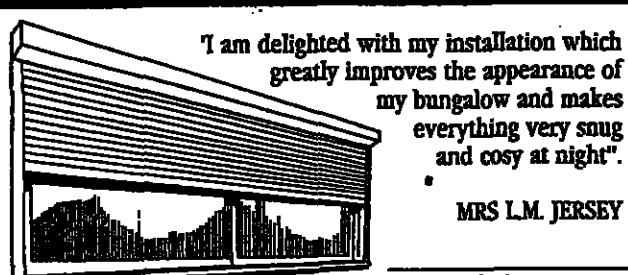
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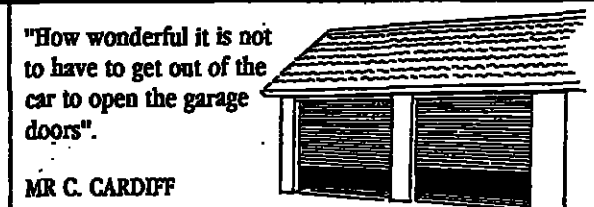
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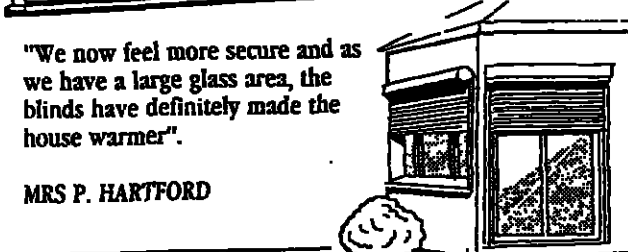
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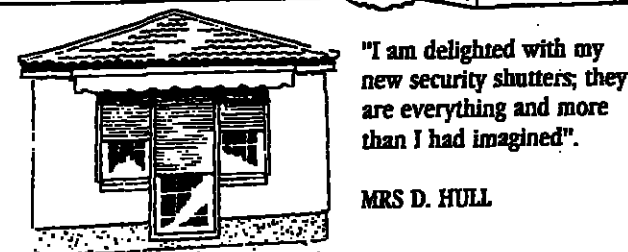
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24

England rugby player broke teacher's jaw in friendly match

BY DAVID YOUNG

AN ENGLAND rugby player who broke the jaw of a teacher during a friendly match between two club teams denied inflicting grievous bodily harm yesterday.

Gary Rees, 32, followed Stefan Marty after a line-out and punched him, Kingston Court, southwest London, was told. Doctors had to wire up Mr Marty's jaw and put him on a liquid diet after the clash at the London Irish ground in Sunbury, Surrey, last January.

Mr Rees, who played the last of his 23 matches for England in the World Cup

last October, was playing for Nottingham during the match. He told police he pushed Mr Marty, and the incident was an accident.

David Jeremy, for the prosecution, told the court: "It was a blow that was delivered obviously by a very fit athlete from behind on a man who had no warning it was coming."

"Therefore, as you might expect, he was relaxed and not ready to take it. In those circumstances, it is not surprising that Mr Marty received serious injuries," Mr Jeremy said that Mr Rees, of Kegworth, Leicestershire, was

a flanker opposite Mr Marty. After a line-out, Mr Marty moved towards his own end of the pitch. "Mr Rees was seen to follow Stefan Marty and punch him once from behind to the side of the face," he said.

"At the top level rugby is a game of hard physical contact and any player running on to the pitch knows that is what is in for. But he does not consent to violence outside the rules. And to strike an opponent as Mr Rees was seen to strike Mr Marty is outside the rules."

John Keohane, a 19-year-old Irish player, said he was shocked by the "messy" punch that he saw Mr Marty deliver with his clenched fist.

Mr Marty, 31, was a second team of the London Irish. He told the court he immediately realised his jaw had been broken. "I was moving in different directions. I swore at him with words to the effect, 'you bastard, you have broken my jaw'."

Joseph Giret, for the defence, said the men accidentally collided when Mr Rees changed direction. He said Mr Marty: "You were deliberately putting yourself between 16 stone of energy — Mr Rees — and his objective. That was a tactic you adopted throughout the game." Mr Marty replied: "I deny that."

The trial continues today.

Welsh star accused

A FORMER Welsh rugby captain temporarily blinded a young player in an unprovoked attack, a court was told yesterday.

Mike Watkins, 40, who was capped four times in the eighties, gouged his thumbs into the eyes of Anthony Hurford, 18, a Cardiff youth player, who was taken to hospital after the incident in the Cardiff clubhouse last May.

Malcolm Bishop, for the prosecution, told Cardiff Crown Court that Mr Hurford had been minding his own business at the club bar when Mr Watkins, a Cardiff player, wagged his finger at him. "Mr

Hurford is an up and coming player but Watkins told him he was not fit to wear his Cardiff badge on his tracksuit." Mr Watkins then shouted about his girl friend before jabbing his thumbs into Mr Hurford's eyes. Mr Bishop said.

Mr Watkins, one of only two players honoured with the Welsh captaincy on his debut, was interviewed by police and said Mr Hurford insulted his girl friend while she was waiting in the club foyer. Mr Watkins, of Pontypridd, Gwent, denies assault causing actual bodily harm. The trial continues today.



Peak climbing in Snowdonia for the five-day, 220-mile Dragon's Back race that starts next Monday and takes 200 teams with 20lb survival packs over more than 50 peaks on a route from Conwy, Gwynedd, to Ammanford, Dyfed

Drugs could quell spider phobia

BY ALISON ROBERTS

PEOPLE who are frightened of spiders or snakes may have a chemical deficiency in their brains that prevents them from coping properly, researchers have found. The discovery could open the way to the development of drugs to treat arachnophobia, the fear of spiders.

Parts of the brain that control primitive fears inherited from prehistoric ancestors

may lack a sufficient amount of a chemical called GABA (gamma-aminobutyric acid) which normally adjusts anxiety levels, according to researchers at Bristol University. In normal people, atavistic fear of spiders, snakes, thunder and lightning or heights is tempered by an anxiety brake shaped like a doughnut that sits on top of brain cell membranes.

In victims of severe arachnophobia, for example,

the wrong amount of GABA affects the size of the hole in the middle of the doughnut, and prevents chloride ions from flowing into the cell. That causes it to trigger a physical reaction, David Nutt, director of the psychopharmacology research unit at Bristol University, said. The victim's heartbeat increases, he sweats and his muscles clench as he prepares to run or fight.

Dr Nutt said: "Some people spend their whole lives watching for spiders. I think they have too little GABA, which is controlling that primitive fear reflex which we normally keep dampened down."

The discovery, applying equally to sufferers of panic attacks, offers "really exciting possibilities" for designing drugs that would help anxiety and phobias without affecting a patient's memory or producing long-term dependence, Dr Nutt said. About half of all women and 10 per cent of men admit to at least disliking spiders, but severe arachnophobia may be classed as neurotic if their anxiety is uncontrollable.

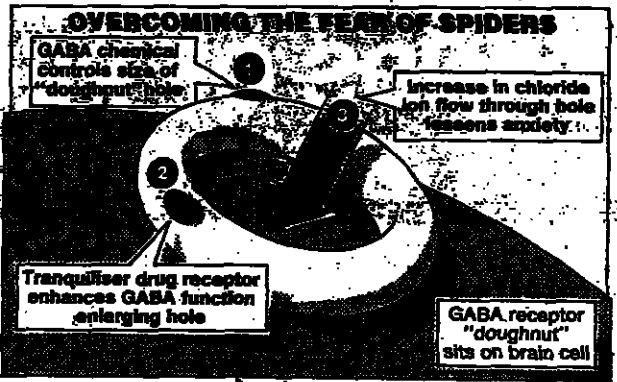
"GABA deficiency may be inherited," Dr Nutt said. "The doughnut is made of five pieces and one of them may not work so well as the others. It is quite possible that hormonal changes in women

may affect one of the five different pieces and bring on anxiety attacks."

The way people respond to benzodiazepine tranquilliser drugs, such as valium, may also be part of their genetic code, inherited as part of their overall personality, he said. Anxious people had fewer receptors for those drugs, which are sited on the doughnut structure, suggesting that the brain normally makes a natural anxiety-reducing compound which is lacking in those who are overly anxious.

The fear of spiders is usually explained as a purely psychological phenomenon, caused by a bad experience with a spider in the past. One theory is that there were more spiders in bubonic plague stricken houses and fear of them now descends from a cultural memory that associated them with infection.

Dr Nutt has found that stress has an effect on GABA function in the brains of animals, indicating that a stressful event may precede the onset of anxiety disorders by disturbing the brain's chemical balance. Theoretically, a stressful encounter with a tarantula could trigger arachnophobia or a frightening crush in a lift could produce the chemical beginnings of claustrophobia.



Boarding survivors repair the damage

BY ALAN HARRISON

WHAT cruel streak so hurls in the English that drives them to despach their pre-pubescent offspring to bleak and ghastly boarding schools at the age of eight or even younger, to be feared at the hands of carbolic matrons and sexually dubious masters when all they want is their mummy? Do they seriously believe that society can still be conquered on the playing fields of Eton? Are they contributing, as much as unemployment, tower blocks and Ecstasy, to the breakdown of society?

Nick Duffell, a London psychotherapist who suffered ten years of boarding schools, has made a specialty of helping the victims. Three years ago he founded Boarding School Survivors, a support group for survivors. Next month he runs his latest clinic for those who feel they have been seriously disadvantaged by the supposed benefits of an expensive education.

More than 60 former pupils have received help from Mr Duffell's sessions, which involve the uninhibited sharing of painful memories. He is in touch with Childline and other agencies which help the helpless young. He says he has a huge postbag from people who feel boarding school has left them ill-equipped to face the real world.

Previous clients, trained from an early age not to blub, be whimsical or otherwise loosen the upper lip,

have collapsed in tears at Mr Duffell's sessions when asked to recall fellow sufferers who remember sadistic beatings, vomiting food, and the peculiar necessity of taking cold showers naked while masters watched. Sufferers have talked of clinging to any miserable morsel of home, whether a comb from their mother's toilet bag or even a handful of their father's pipe ash.

"We are not attempting to put down the public school system, we are simply trying to help people who have been damaged by it," Mr Duffell said. "Repressive training and being stoic is great if you are a warrior, but boarding school is not a warrior's life."

Boarding School Survivors are not opposed to the public school system, only to the overpowering feeling of being trapped. Mr Duffell sent one of his own sons briefly to such an establishment, but not until the child was a teenager.

His views are regarded by the unreconstructed old boys as the feeble rantings of a failed boarder. "This notion that boarding schools have created misfits and malcontents is largely hogwash," a Headmasters' Conference spokesman said. "If they hadn't been damaged by boarding school, they would have been damaged by something else."

Leading article, page 13

New Severn bridge to boost M4

The foundations of a second bridge across the Severn were unveiled yesterday. The £300 million private toll bridge is expected to be opened in 1996.

The new crossing, with three lanes in each direction, is three miles downstream from the Severn Bridge. The Anglo-French construction teams have begun work on both sides of the estuary and are assembling a fleet of barges and pontoons for the central section.

John MacGregor, the transport secretary, who joined David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, to unveil the work at Sudbrook Point, Oswest, said that the three-mile bridge would more than double the capacity of the M4. "It will greatly benefit communities and businesses on both sides of the estuary," he said.

£3m granted for pier park

Liverpool's pier head is to be developed as a public park after a £3.1 million grant was announced yesterday by the environment ministry. The seven-acre site will include the Royal Liver, Cunard and Port of Liverpool buildings.

The development will feature raised lawns and a central concourse, an extended riverside walk and pedestrian links to the city centre. Work will begin in September and take 18 months.

Speedie fined

IT'S Southampton footballer David Speedie was fined £50 by Jersey magistrates after admitting disorderly conduct in a hotel where the team was staying at the weekend.

Drug remand

George Trevor Smith, 50, of Redditch, Hereford, and Worcester, was remanded in custody by Beaconsfield magistrates, Buckinghamshire, charged with possessing a block of cannabis resin with a street value of £2.5 million.

Body found

Police are trying to trace a group of "new age" travellers after a woman's body was found close to a site used by travellers near Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

Climber hurt

Marie Nisht, 23, of Quadresden, Derby, suffered injuries to her leg and lower torso after being trapped for two hours under a boulder while climbing in the Peak District.

Sheep savaged

Two dogs savaged 25 ewes, worth more than £1,500, on a farm at Hewish, Avon. Police were searching for the dogs, which were scared off by the farmer, Steven Jones.

Rooted out

Thieves have stolen a collection of endangered plants being cultivated by conservationists at the Botanical Gardens in Ventnor, Isle of Wight.

Fire saviour

Euthymios Papanicolaou, a restaurateur, saved his family from a fire at their home in Teignmouth, Devon, by throwing a mattress on the ground to break their fall.

Balancing acts

Businessmen in Liskeard, Cornwall, are to be taught to juggle and ride unicycles to help them to overcome stress.

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Lone lifestyle poses few hitches for six million Britons

By RAY CLANCY

MORE people in Britain live alone than ever before and the number is forecast to be nearly eight million by the end of the century, according to a report published today. They embrace a healthier lifestyle than other households and are not particularly worried about being lonely.

There are more than six million one-person homes, twice as many as there were 30 years ago. If single parents are added, then 40 per cent of households will either be single people or solo parents by the end of the century.

John Cunningham, chief executive of Mintel, the market researchers who publish the report, said: "What we are seeing is a radical change. The sooner we take this on board the better as there are issues that need to be addressed from social, commercial and political points of view."

"Society may be geared towards couples and families but most single people are very positive about living alone and make the most of the single lifestyle while it lasts," Mr Cunningham said.

One of the finds by researchers was that, contrary to popular image, single people do not eat a lot of junk food. Researchers found that single

people's eating and buying habits revolve around convenience and indulgence.

Angela Hughes, Mintel's consumer research manager, said: "That does not necessarily mean junk food. Single people tend to spend more than couples on cereals, bread, eggs and milk which can be regarded as convenience foods because they are simple to use and easy to store."

Those living alone buy more cakes, biscuits, sugar and jam but that is balanced by more fresh green vegetables and fresh fruit than other households. They have a positive attitude towards a healthy diet and are more likely to eat vegetarian meals and to disregard dehydrated fast foods.

Making the effort to cook proper meals varies according to age. Men, those under 55, and divorcees and separated people are more likely not to bother cooking if they are alone. But those aged over 55 and people who have never been married do not regard it as too much trouble.

Whether they are single by choice, divorced, separated or widowed, those living alone are not particularly worried about loneliness. About a third regarded it as a problem and 16 per cent said that they find

it difficult to manage on their own. Those who have suffered a bereavement are more likely to be concerned.

Women over pension age make up the largest group of single households. The trend is expected to continue because of better life expectancy for females.

One person households are mainly young single people and older people. The report says that living alone is a transitory state for many, especially those aged under 55.

The rise in the number of people does not mean anti-social, the report says. People are embracing freedom and choice. People living alone said they felt a sense of achievement at coping and that they welcomed the freedom of not to have to think about someone else all the time.

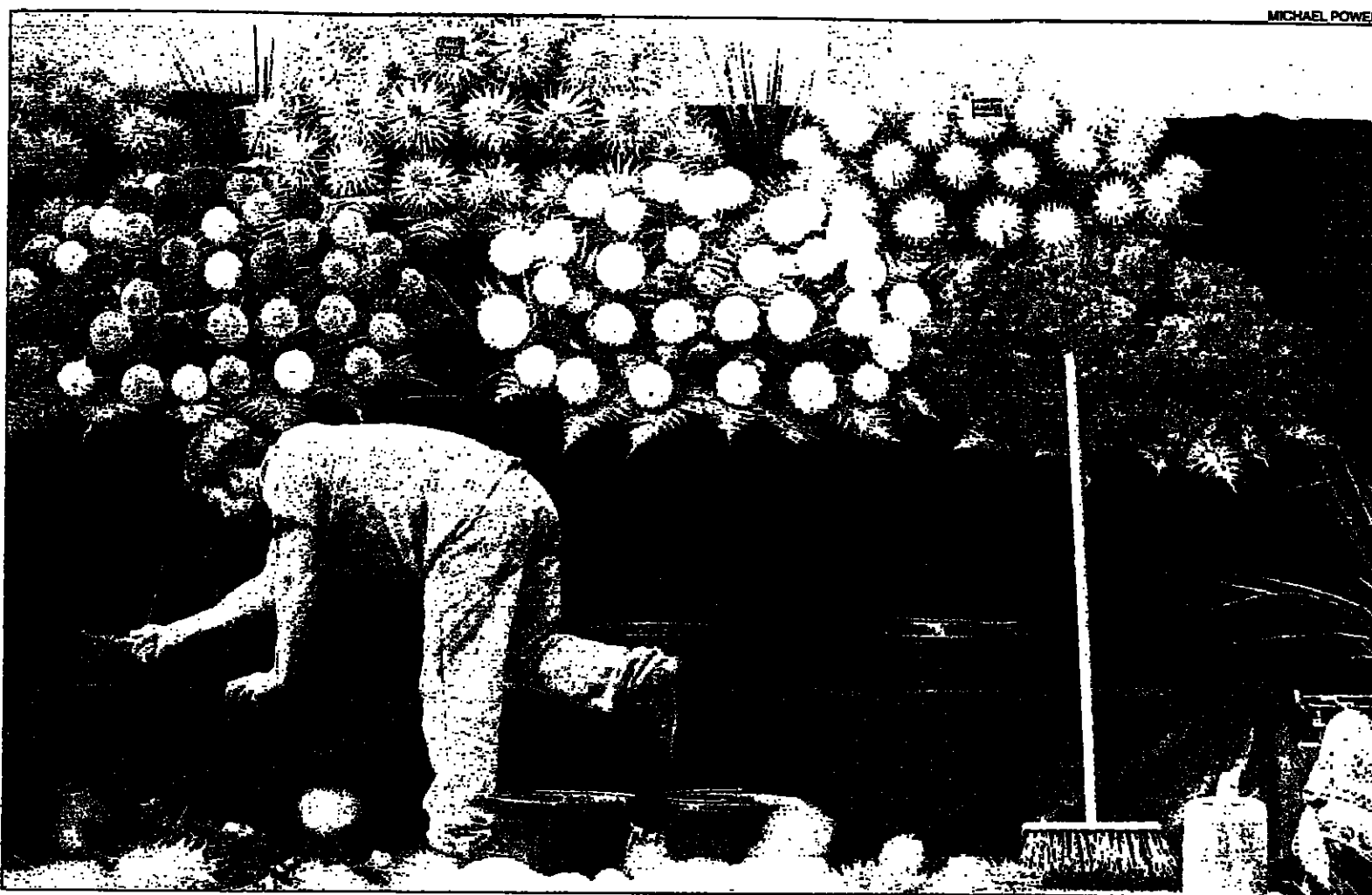
Single Person Households — *Single Living, Diverse Lives* 1992 (ISBN 0 895 19101 0) Long Lane, London EC1A 9HE

Office workers who live in London spend the equivalent of one working day a week travelling to and from their jobs, according to a survey published yesterday.

The average journey to and from work takes one-and-a-half hours, which for 73 per cent of commuters is wasted time, said the survey by *Business Pages*, the business directory.

Few have the energy or the means to do paperwork or read on the journey. The survey found that 27 per cent of commuters worked while travelling (of whom 42 per cent did background reading) 25 per cent wrote reports, 15 per cent wrote lists and 12 per cent phoned work associates.

Half of the 304 business people surveyed said they would be interested in taking taxis that offered the use of fax machines and mobile telephones.



Showtime: Mark Tivey of Philip Tivey and Sons of Leicester, with dahlias at the two-day RHS autumn show, opening in London today

Dynamic Fischer seizes control

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

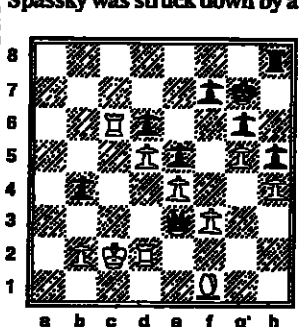
BOBBY Fischer took firm control of his match against Boris Spassky when he won the eighth game in Sveti Stefan, Montenegro, on Sunday night. Fischer's win took him into the lead, three games to two with three games drawn, in a contest worth a record \$5 million (£2.5 million) to the victor. The winner is the player who first achieves ten wins.

Doubts arose about Fischer's ability to make a convincing comeback when he lost games four and five to Spassky last week and fell into severe difficulties in the drawn game six. But games seven and eight showed all Fischer's old vigour.

The opening of game eight was a sharp variation of the King's Indian Defence. After 21 moves, Fischer was trying to attack on the Queen's flank

while Spassky, playing white, hoped to create attacking chances on the other side of the board. On the 22nd move, Spassky failed to prosecute his offensive strongly enough and that slight hesitation allowed Fischer to establish a dominating squadron of black knights in the centre.

Now under heavy pressure, Spassky was struck down by a



The final position

sudden sacrifice of one of Fischer's knights. That said cost Spassky his Queen for inadequate compensation. Fischer followed up with a sacrifice of a rook on the 37th move to break Spassky's defence, forcing his resignation on move 40.

White 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Bc2 6 Qd2 7 Nge2 8 Qd2 9 h4 10 Bb5 11 Bxg7 12 d5 13 Ng5 14 Qxg6 15 Q-O-O 16 Kb1 17 Nd5 18 Ne3 19 Re1 20 Bc3 21 Nd5

Black 22 Nf1 23 Bxh5 24 cxd5 25 Rxf1 26 Qd7 27 Qc8 28 Rf2 29 Bf1 30 Bxg3 31 Re1 32 axd3 33 Rf6 34 Rxd2 35 Rxd6 36 Rf6 37 Bf1 38 Qe7 39 Kc1 40 Kc2

White 22 Nf1 23 Bxh5 24 cxd5 25 Rxf1 26 Qd7 27 Qc8 28 Rf2 29 Bf1 30 Bxg3 31 Re1 32 axd3 33 Rf6 34 Rxd2 35 Rxd6 36 Rf6 37 Bf1 38 Qe7 39 Kc1 40 Kc2

Black 22 Nf1 23 Bxh5 24 cxd5 25 Rxf1 26 Qd7 27 Qc8 28 Rf2 29 Bf1 30 Bxg3 31 Re1 32 axd3 33 Rf6 34 Rxd2 35 Rxd6 36 Rf6 37 Bf1 38 Qe7 39 Kc1 40 Kc2

White 22 Nf1 23 Bxh5 24 cxd5 25 Rxf1 26 Qd7 27 Qc8 28 Rf2 29 Bf1 30 Bxg3 31 Re1 32 axd3 33 Rf6 34 Rxd2 35 Rxd6 36 Rf6 37 Bf1 38 Qe7 39 Kc1 40 Kc2

Black 22 Nf1 23 Bxh5 24 cxd5 25 Rxf1 26 Qd7 27 Qc8 28 Rf2 29 Bf1 30 Bxg3 31 Re1 32 axd3 33 Rf6 34 Rxd2 35 Rxd6 36 Rf6 37 Bf1 38 Qe7 39 Kc1 40 Kc2

Ramblers campaign over blocked paths

By RONALD FAUX

THE Ramblers' Association yesterday launched a national campaign against what it called "Forbidden Britain Hot Spots" along a tree-lined track wandering for two miles through countryside near the Solway Firth in Cumbria.

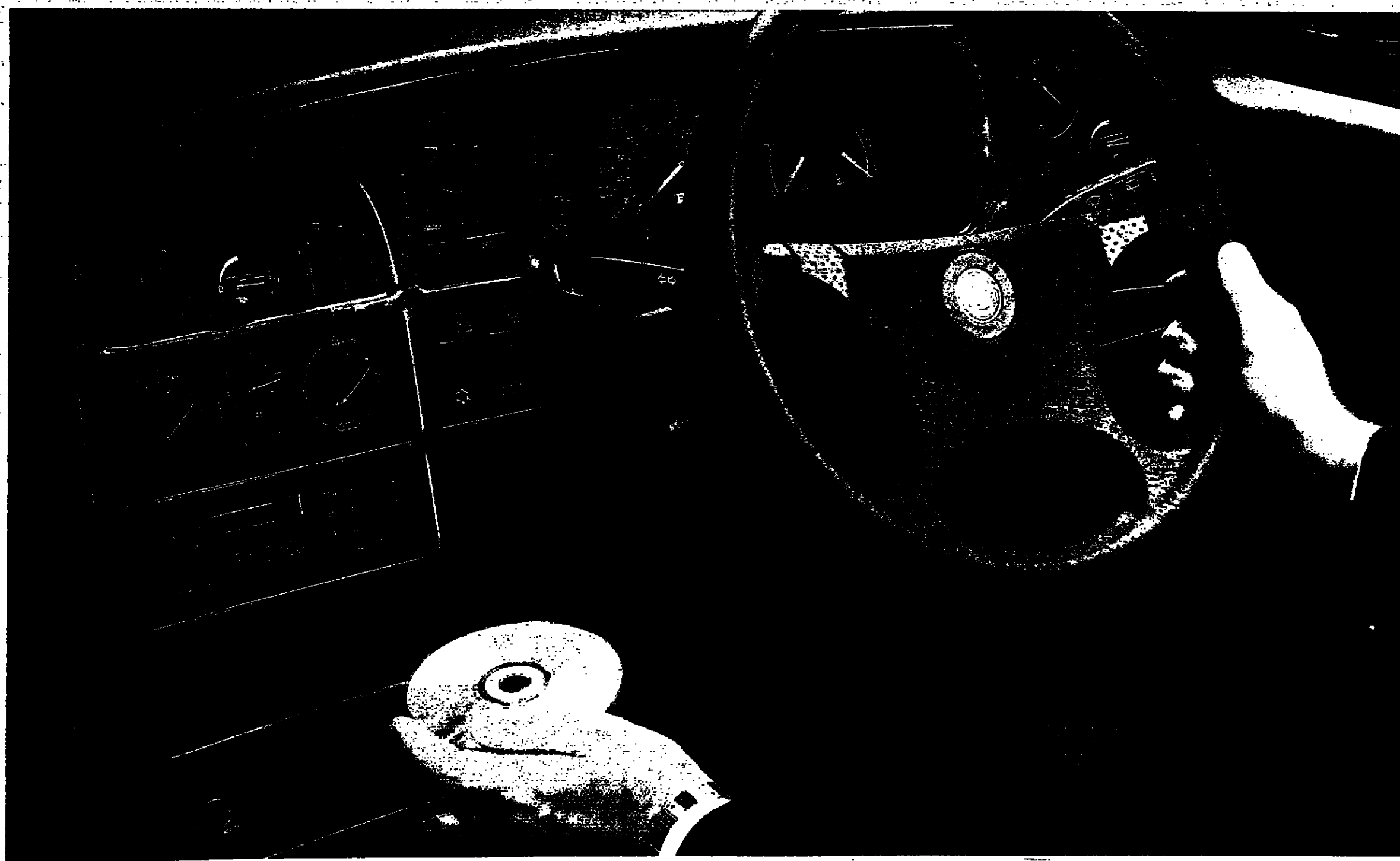
Association activists said that a local farmer had for years deliberately attempted to block the right of way with illegal barriers of barbed wire. Forty such paths across the countryside, where landowners have obstructed the right to ramble, have been selected to highlight the campaign.

Jerry Pearlman, a specialist in footpath law and solicitor to the Ramblers' Association, said: "This is as much a public right of way as the Queen's highway. It is clearly marked

as such on the Ordnance Survey map."

David Beskine, leader of the footpath campaign, said the "hot spots" were a small sample of the footpath and countryside to be tackled by the association. Countryside Commission surveys had shown that where a footpath had been blocked or ploughed up, eight out of ten ramblers would turn back.

Reports from ramblers in Hereford and Worcester indicated that up to 70 per cent of footpaths had been ploughed or obstructed. "The difficulties are growing just as the demand for places where people can enjoy a quiet country walk and the thirst for knowledge about footpaths is increasing," he said.



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Liberal Democrats at Harrogate: party split over conference 'tactical mistake'

MP to quit in protest over abortion vote

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE Liberal Democrat MP David Alton will not stand again for the party, in protest at a decision to make abortion a policy issue rather than a matter of conscience.

Mr Alton resigned as Liberal Democrat chief whip in 1987 in order to bring in a backbench bill to lower the time limit for abortions from 24 to 18 weeks. The bill was eventually "talked out" by MPs and angry scenes in the Commons and Mr Alton has since refused to take a parliamentary portfolio.

His decision yesterday was in response to a declaration by the party conference in Harrogate that NHS staff who refuse to perform abortions must refer pregnant women to colleagues willing to operate.

Mr Alton, MP for Liverpool Mossley Hill, said it was the first time the party had adopted a formal policy on abortion, which had previously been an issue of conscience for individual MPs. Announcing that he would not stand for the party at the next general election, he said: "While this policy remains intact, I will not be able to fight for or recommend people to vote for the Liberal Democrats."

The depth of the division between Mr Alton and the party was clear in his comments to a fringe meeting last night. "Parties make policies on issues such as this at their peril. It will rightly alienate countless people who will never vote for, join or stand for a party which removes the right of conscience on this issue, and I will stand four-square with them."

Other leading Liberal Democrats also expressed fears that the decision to lay down abortion policy might cost the party support. Archie Kirkwood, the party's chief whip, declared the conference decision a "tactical mistake", and Simon Hughes, the MP for Southwark and Bermondsey, warned representatives that the policy-making move might be misinterpreted outside the party.

Although MPs will not be bound by party policy in a Commons vote, there is widespread concern in the party that the policy will be perceived as being pro-abortion. It is the first time that the party has established abortion policy in England and Wales, although it already exists in the party in Scotland.

Sir David Steel, the former Liberal leader who proposed backbench legislation which led to the legalisation of abortion in 1967, was also reported to be concerned that the issue should remain a matter

of individual conscience rather than one of party policy, although he was not present for the debate.

Mr Alton also objected to a requirement, passed overwhelmingly by the conference, that abortions be carried out within 14 days of being sought, a proposal which, he said, did not give women sufficient time for counselling. He would consider whether to stand as an independent candidate or join another party at the next election, but would continue to work for the party in the meantime. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said that Mr Alton had played "no part in the building up of our new party. It is sad to see him go but it won't make any difference to the way we conduct our affairs."

Mr Alton said the policy



Steel led the way in legalising abortion

obliging doctors to refer women to other medical practitioners "further restricted the rights of conscience of medical staff. It forces doctors and nurses to refer patients for an abortion even if they are morally and ethically opposed."

Mr Alton's seat, which he won in a by-election in 1979, was held in April's general election with a 2,606 majority. He has recently increased his involvement in the anti-abortion campaign through his position as vice-president of the organisation Life, and as founder of the Movement for Christian Democracy.

During yesterday's debate, Nigel Williams, from Dulwich, south London, said: "We can't have our cake and eat it. If we are to have a genuine conscience position, we can't have a detailed policy on abortion. The two are incompatible."

Proposers of the motion said the current law allowing abortion was unequally implemented, with women's access to NHS abortions depending on health authority resources in their areas and the beliefs of their individual doctors.

Dr Jenny Tonge, a GP from Richmond and Barnes, said: "This motion does not ask us to approve or disapprove of abortion. The present law allows for both points of view, but its implementation is patchy. This debate is about justice and fair and equal implementation of the law."

Matthew Parris, page 16



Protest vote: David Alton registers his dissent in the abortion debate yesterday

Delegates scorn Ashdown's 'right-wing' challenge

The Liberal Democrat leadership won limited approval for their new policy document, Sheila Gunn writes. The party's "brains" will now have to think again

Paddy Ashdown and his team of Liberal Democrat "brains" received a severe rebuke from conference representatives yesterday for their policy document setting out the party's core themes and values.

After a wave of derisory, and occasionally downright rude, comments about *Challenge, Opportunity and Responsibility*, the conference divided over whether to tear up the document or use it as the basis for future policy making. With a final plea from Lord Holme of Cheltenham, the team's vice-chairman, not to engage in symbolic gestures, the leadership won the day by 13 votes. Voting was 324 to 311.

Given the scale of the criticism, the policy makers are expected to rethink the document almost entirely. The main complaint about the

24-page document was its right-wing tendency with the espousal of free-market principles and the talk of "empowerment" of the individual. Representatives variously called for more commitment to community politics, the return of full employment and tough "green" measures.

Bernard Salmon from Folkestone and Hythe suggested an alternative title of "fudge, mudge and bollocks". The document was full of platitudes, awful, shoddy and ill-prepared, he said.

Party officials disclosed later that the original text had

used harsher terms to describe the public sector and had been more enthusiastic about the merits of competition.

I was drawn up by the new agenda working group, chaired by Mr Ashdown, including Lord Holme, the MPs Nick Harvey and Robert MacLennan, councillors David Howarth and Sarah Ladford and Rabbi Julia Neuberger. The Liberal Democrat leader described the document as the source paper for future policy positions and the first step towards the

party's manifesto at the next general election.

Gordon Lishman, a leading party official, said some of the document was fundamentally wrong and its tone was patronising with talk of values and themes rather than philosophy and coherence.

Michael Smart from Greenwich complained that the economic policy section set the party on a lopsided course: strong on individual values, weak on communal values. "I fear the document is wheeling too much to starboard, that is to the right," Jackie Ballard from Taunton said. "If it is so blindly obvious that defence must be the responsibility of the state, how is it not also obvious to the party's free-market gurus that health, education, housing and transport should also be the responsibility of government?"

Don Foster, MP for Bath,

said the document skimmed over education and training, while James Walsh, a West Sussex county councillor and GP, complained that the term "empowerment" was Tory-speak for empowering the rich to opt for private services.

One of the most outspoken critics, Alex Wilcock, president of Essex students' union, said the party had become "recklessly timid with no vision. It was, he said, a 'dead party document'." He hoped the party would have the courage of the convictions which the document did not have and throw it out.

Lord Holme admitted it was not a perfect paper but it was designed for consultation. He promised that, whatever the outcome of the conference vote, it would be worked on further in the next year.

BRIEFS

Wilson attacks pact talk

Des Wilson, the Liberal Democrats' 1992 election campaign manager, last night questioned Paddy Ashdown's decision to raise the prospect of closer co-operation with Labour only one month after the election.

At a conference rally, Mr Wilson said that talk of a political realignment, as in Mr Ashdown's Chard speech on May 9, was unrealistic. "It just won't happen, definitely not while Labour remains as it is," he said.

Although he did not rule out limited co-operation, he urged Mr Ashdown, Simon Hughes and others to resist the siren calls for realignment. Mr Wilson said: "Was Paddy's post-election speech a mistake? Maybe it was. We forget sometimes that what matters is not what we're trying to say but what others think they hear."

BBC told to have courage

The BBC was told to "stop cowering" from the criticism it suffered from Margaret Thatcher's government and defend its role as one of the world's major broadcasters.

Robert Smith, a former Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate from Aberdeen North, pressed the corporation's governors to underline the BBC's importance in advance of its charter being renewed. Telling the conference that the corporation no longer faced such strong government pressure, he said: "I find it quite depressing that the corporation's governors are doing so little."

Policy defied

Liberal Democrat activists demanded the setting up of a party working group to look at moral issues raised by genetic engineering. Delegates defied the wishes of their federal policy committee to support overwhelmingly a motion highlighting the ethical dilemmas posed by the science. The committee had said that, while these should be considered in the context of all policy areas, the time "was not right for us to look at the subject in its own right".

Looking for a student bank account?

Teachers call for 16.5pc pay rise

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION
CORRESPONDENT

THE National Union of Teachers was left isolated yesterday after claiming a pay rise worth four times the rate of inflation. Conservative MPs joined other union leaders in dismissing the claim as unrealistic.

As the NUT lodged its submission arguing for a 16.5 per cent rise, the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers said it would be seeking increases of 8 to 10 per cent. Nigel de Gruchy, the general secretary, said: "NASUWT believes a balance has to be struck between arguing the case for a deserved pay increase for teachers while at the same time retaining credibility with the public."

Sir Rhodes Boyson, a former Tory education minister and MP for Brent North, predicted that teachers could expect no more than 1 or 2 per cent more than the going rate for public servants. "I sympathise with teachers on



Boyson: "There is no way claim will be credible"

their pay claim but at a time of increased unemployment and huge numbers of business failures, there is no way a 16.5 per cent claim will be credible."

Harry Greenwood, a fellow Conservative MP and former headmaster, said: "They should come into line with the more moderate claims of other teacher unions in the interests of the children, the economy and the future of the profession."

Doug McAvoy, the NUT's general secretary, insisted that the claim was a vital

investment to "restore teachers to their rightful place and to make the profession attractive again". The union is calling for legal limits on class sizes and limits on teachers' working hours, as well as a pay rise.

The National Association of Head Teachers will also finalise a lower claim than the NUT's before the end of the week. David Hart, the general secretary, said: "I am confident that our claim will be realistic."

Leading article, page 13

Smith puts jobs-for-all at centre of party policy

LABOUR yesterday restored full employment as a central objective of its economic policy in John Smith's first policy statement, to go before the annual conference later this month.

The 26-page document, *Agenda for Change*, sees Mr Smith trying to position Labour on the side of the individual and the consumer against vested interests. Labour should be the party "of success and self-reliance", it says in an overt appeal to the upwardly mobile middle classes who have been lost to the Tories.

In a frank admission of past failures the paper, drawn up by Mr Smith in collaboration with key front-bench colleagues, says: "The severe disappointment we suffered in the general election demonstrates quite clearly that we cannot go on as before. In recent years the party has eliminated many of the negative factors that seriously weakened our position in the late Eighties, but we have been less successful in articulating the positive agenda that Labour must bring to the British people. Our task now is to overcome the distance that many of our potential supporters feel from Labour."

It goes on: "Labour must be seen to support self-reliance

Labour's new leader is trying to put the party on the side of the individual, writes Philip Webster

and hard work and pride in achievement. Labour's task is to identify with the hopes and aspirations of individual men and women ... across the country so they in turn identify with us."

The restoration of the full employment pledge is a significant shift in tone. Labour approached the last election promising to aim for the "fullest possible level of employment", a cautious wording designed to prevent charges that it was making unrealistic commitments.

The paper approved yesterday says: "Our aspiration is to make full employment once again a central objective of economic policy."

The document confirms the leadership's plan to have future policy-making overseen by a 16-strong committee of the national executive and the shadow cabinet. A 100-member forum will be set up next year, from which policy commissions will be drawn to

develop and revise Labour's programme. Mr Smith will chair the committee, which aims to bring flexibility to policy making. Many party figures felt that Labour's taxation at the election were out of date, having been agreed in 1989 during a different economic climate.

The paper accepts that Labour will have to change to win the voters' trust. "Labour was born out of the struggle for change at the end of the last century; a demand for change made by millions of ordinary working people to meet their aspirations for democratic rights and social justice."

Without giving any hint of the likely outcome of the internal debate on proportional representation for the Westminster elections, the document makes clear that constitutional issues will have a high priority under Mr Smith. "Britain is alone among the major western European nations in not laying down in legislation the basic rights of our citizens and in not giving them a direct means of asserting these rights through the courts. We must examine the case for a bill of rights."

Labour should be the champion of the individual. "We want to see a government, national and local, acting as a powerful advocate of the citizen, providing information, advice, advocacy and legal assistance to individuals." People need to know Labour is defending them against "brutishness and vandalism, the drift into anti-social behaviour and the disintegration of the values which reinforce decency, neighbourliness and community self-help."

The paper calls for an integrated and truly national health service with a new emphasis on prevention and the economic benefit of investment in health. It carries forward previous pledges to improve the public services.

Portillo seeks curb on spending

BY JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Portillo, the chief secretary to the Treasury will outline the key areas which face the toughest curbs on public spending at the first meeting of the special cabinet committee on Thursday.

The committee, chaired by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, was set up as part of the new mechanism to rein in public spending. Over the past two weeks Mr Portillo has been meeting heads of departments to ensure that spending next year is limited to the £244.5 billion total agreed in July.

Ministers who were bidding for an extra £14 billion have been asked to draw up two programmes: one using the headline agreed in last year's expenditure white paper, and a second, lower target to allow for demand-led expansion in areas such as social security. All departments are being pressed to keep public sector pay rises in line with inflation, now predicted at less than 3 per cent next year.

The £70 billion social security budget, which accounts for nearly a third of public spending, is expected to face the toughest scrutiny, but politically acceptable savings will be hard to find. Although part of the benefits bill will be met from the contingency reserve, other spending departments may have to be cut back to fund the remainder. Revised unemployment estimates for next year are 600,000 higher than the 2.4 million anticipated, leading to an extra cost of at least £2.1 billion.

The most vulnerable spending departments are defence, transport, health, environment and the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland departments.

Patients to get wider guarantee from extended charter

BY JILL SHERMAN

HEALTH ministers are planning to extend the patient's charter to cover GP services in a drive to improve primary health care throughout the country.

Until now the patient's charter has concentrated on hospital services, in particular reducing the length of time people have to wait for operations. NHS patients have already been given a two-year

waiting limit for all procedures, with an 18-month limit for specific surgery such as hip operations.

Ministers now want to concentrate more on the length of time people wait in GP surgeries and the speed at which medical records are processed and transferred when patients want to change doctors. They also want to ensure that patients have as much information as possible about health services available at

practices and complaints procedures. Ministers have been impressed by local charters setting out in greater detail the services to which patients are entitled, and want to see these moves extended nationwide.

Although hospitals have been urged to cut waiting times in outpatient clinics, until now GP surgeries have been largely overlooked. Many people also complain about the difficulties in

changing GPs and the length of time taken to transfer records from one GP practice to another.

Ministers are confident they can reduce maximum hospital waiting times further. They are hoping to reduce waits for all operations to 18 months, and eventually to a year. They point to the success of the two-year limit, which was just about achieved in April, days before the general election.

Under the scheme, if patients cannot be admitted to a hospital locally within two years they are sent to a hospital in a different district or to a private hospital.

Other aspects of the patient's charter include maximum waiting times for ambulance services, immediate access to accident and emergency services, and having a named nurse, midwife or health visitor responsible for each patient.

Bosnia shelling continues as monitors take control of Serb artillery

Sarajevo's boycott of talks shocks UN envoy

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN
IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CYRUS Vance, the United Nations peace envoy, reacted angrily yesterday to the decision of President Izetbegovic of Bosnia to pull out of peace talks in Geneva on Friday. A UN spokesman, Fred Eckhard, said that Mr Vance had been shocked because Mr Izetbegovic had given him a "solemn personal commitment" to come. Mr Vance has responded that he still expects Mr Izetbegovic to show up or send a delegation.

The dispute blew up as buildings blazed in Sarajevo and reports indicated that Serbian forces were on the defensive and even retreating from areas previously thought to be solidly under their control. Battles raged in the western suburbs despite UN assurances that they were now monitoring Serb heavy weaponry in 11 locations. Shells also fell on the town centre and at least four were killed.

A Bosnian presidency member, Ejup Ganic, said: "The heavy weapons were supposed to be under the control of the UN Protection Force (Unprofor), but Unprofor are confused and disoriented. In

Eckhard said that Mr Izetbegovic "was categorical that Bosnia-Herzegovina would not be represented at any level... a few hours later an equally categorical letter was sent back by Mr Vance".

Kadovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, also suggested that he might not show up to Friday's talks if a "no-fly zone" was imposed on Bosnia-Herzegovina. While Serb forces are the only ones in the republic with air power the full implications of the "no-fly zone" only became apparent yesterday as reports came in of the first sustained Serb military setbacks in Bosnia for several months.

Serb power will be weakened seriously if its leadership can no longer use helicopters to hop from town to town and commute to Serbia. For the first time there are reports that the main road from Belgrade to the Serb stronghold of Pale near Sarajevo is no longer secure. Bosnian forces having attacked traffic near the eastern town of Zvornik.

The Belgrade news agency Tanjug reported that ten civilians were killed in an ambush between Zvornik and Tuzla last week and added that survivors heard Muslim women and children shouting "Allahu Akbar" as the attack took place.

Over the weekend the vital northern corridor linking Serbia with Serb-controlled northern Bosnia and Serb areas in Croatia was cut for the first time since it was secured by the Serbs in July. Tanjug reported that artillery, tanks and heavy artillery firing from across the Sava river in Croatia had been used. The corridor was reported open again yesterday but the fact that fighting continues there means that the Serb military position is far less secure than previously thought.

Even more serious, from the Serb point of view, are reports of clashes in several eastern Bosnian towns which fell to them like ripe fruit at the beginning of the war. Bosnian forces previously besieged in Gorazde are now thrusting outwards. Fighting was reported in nearby Foca and

over the weekend around Zvornik and Visegrad.

The Bosnians have accused the Yugoslav Army of attempting to shore up the faltering Serb positions in the east by sending 100 tanks over the frontier at the weekend but there was no confirmation of this.

From Zagreb, AFP reported that Serbian forces launched several air attacks in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina on yesterday in apparent defiance of international moves toward creating an exclusion zone in Bosnian airspace. Six aircraft fired several missiles on the outskirts of the Croatian town of Slavonki Brod, 120 miles east of Zagreb on the border with Bosnia-Herzegovina. Slavonki Brod was also hit by heavy artillery from northern



On alert: a young Bosnian woman, with an AK47 rifle, waits for a funeral in a Sarajevo cemetery yesterday

Bosnia as were a dozen neighbouring villages. Seven civilians were wounded.

Air raids were also reported in north-west Bosnia, with the industrial area of Cazin and residential sectors in Bihac hit by fragmentation bombs. Shannon Boyde, the UN forces' spokeswoman in Zagreb, said a strong explosion had damaged the runway at the civilian airport in Zemunik, near Zadar, on Croatia's Adriatic coast.

She said French UN troops

had gone to examine the runway. Two French soldiers were killed there on June 17 when their vehicle ran over a mine.

● Zagreb: UN peacekeeping troops took over a large dam yesterday, in a move that involved rare Serb-Croat cooperation and should restore regular water and electricity supplies to Croatia's coast (AP reports).

A UN spokeswoman said UN troops took over guarding the Peruca dam, 30 miles

inland from the Dalmatian coast. Water from the dam drives three hydro-electric power stations in Croatian territory. "There are armed UN soldiers guarding the site and the UN flag is flying over it," she said.

The dam supplies water to more than 500,000 people in Split and the surrounding coast. It fell under control of Serb militias during Croatia's six-month war last year.

Diary, page 12

Bonn wins backing for new jet

London: The survival of the £22 billion four-nation European Fighter Aircraft project looked precarious yesterday after Germany appeared to have won support from Italy and Spain for a new, lighter Eurofighter (Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent writes). If three of the four EFA partners agree to build a "totally new aircraft", Britain could be left on her own.

German officials said Volker Rube, the German defence minister and Julian Garcia Vargas, his Spanish counterpart, agreed that remaining research and development funds for the EFA should now go towards designing a lighter aircraft. About half the £5.5 billion for developing the EFA has been spent so far.

The two met on the sidelines of a Franco-Spanish summit on the North Sea island of Sylt. German sources said a similar pledge was made by the Italian defence minister in Venice at the weekend.

Thai pact

Bangkok: Four of Thailand's anti-military parties have agreed to form a coalition government after victory in Sunday's elections. Chuan Leekpai, the Democrat party leader, is to be nominated as prime minister. (Reuters)

Link destroyed

Tbilisi: A bridge between Armenia and Georgia, forming their only remaining rail link, was blown up. It is not known who was responsible. The other supply route to Armenia from Russia, through Azerbaijan, had already been cut. (AP)

GIs help out

Lihue: US troops helped clean up districts devastated by Hurricane Iniki and officials tended to more than 7,000 people in shelters on Kauai island. About 10,000 homes were damaged in Hawaii's worst storm this century. (AP)

Security check

Delhi: India is to set up an independent human rights commission to investigate charges of brutality by security personnel combating separatists. Ministers will outline the work of the commission. (AP)



these circumstances I don't think we will continue (the peace process) if it goes on."

There was no statement by the UN why there was shelling if Sarajevo after Serb weapons had come under their control. However it was clear that either much weaponry had not been handed in or that the Serbs were responding to a renewed Bosnian offensive to break the siege.

On Sunday night Mr Izetbegovic wrote to Mr Vance saying that he could not attend peace talks while Bosnian cities were under attack. Mr

Yeltsin's camp accuses central bank of causing economic woe

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

THE Russian government's economic think-tank said yesterday that the country was heading for hyperinflation within the next two months and blamed the central bank for hindering reforms for political motives.

Sergei Vasiliev, a director of the Centre for Economic Reform, said the bank had been going out vast credits to commercial banks and member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Borrowing had risen by 40 per cent in July alone. "We have two to four weeks to reverse this trend, otherwise we will have 50 per cent inflation very soon."

Mr Vasiliev said 10 per cent of Russia's gross national product was flowing out as credits to the other states "without the faintest chance" it would ever be repaid. "The central bank's policy represents a full-scale retreat from the path of reform. In practice, it is working to discredit the cause of reform."



Gaidar: wants tight monetary policy

The think-tank's comments are intended to put the dispute between economic reformers and conservatives on the agenda of the Russian parliament when it reconvenes next week. Blaming the central bank for economic misfortune is now a regular pastime of President Yeltsin's camp, so much so that it is

easy to conclude that if the bank and all its weaknesses did not exist, it would have been necessary for Mr Yeltsin to invent them as a scapegoat. But it is also a large and implacable foe that he could well do without.

The bank, headed by Viktor Geraschenko, a former head of the Soviet central bank, has begun issuing loans to state enterprises to cover their debts. Mr Geraschenko, a conservative, is wary of the tight monetary policy favoured by Yegor Gaidar, the prime minister, and the International Monetary Fund. His policy towards state enterprises enables them to keep on their workers, even though productivity has slumped.

Where Mr Gaidar favours creating a small pool of unemployed on the Western model to keep wage demands in check, the bank appears to have retained the communist horror of unemployment.

Romanov bones, page 12

Neo-Nazi killers get four years

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN BERLIN

FOUR neo-Nazis convicted for their role in the killing of an Angolan in November 1990 in Eberswalde were sentenced yesterday to between three and four years in prison. A fifth was placed on probation for two years.

Amadeu Antonio Kiowa, 28, a guestworker, was kicked and beaten unconscious by about 50 thugs and died in hospital days later, the first casualty of racism in post-unification Germany.

The four-month trial ended in uproar as a group of protesters were expelled from the court building ac-

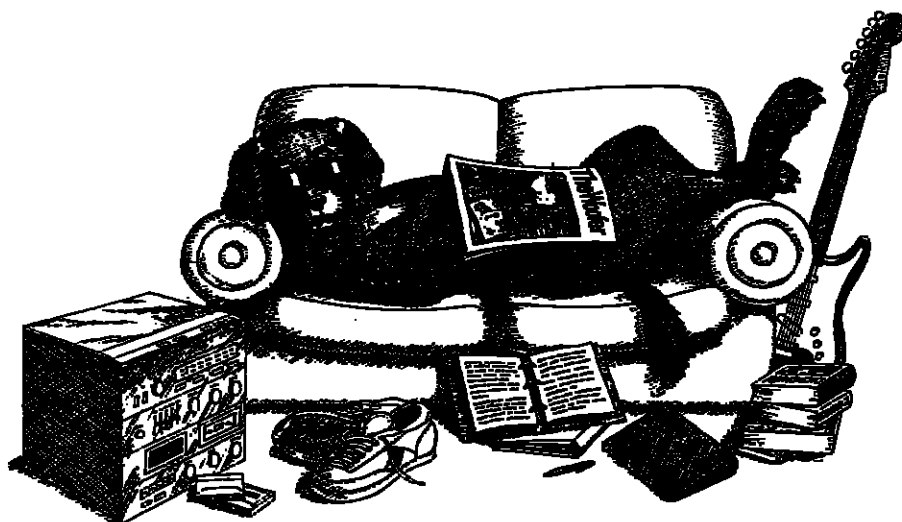
curring the judge of being too lenient. A dozen masked left-wing supporters demonstrated outside with banners proclaiming: "Hunt the Nazis, beat them up and destroy the whole bloody system."

During the trial the prosecution said police had monitored the skinheads. But when the violence started the police are alleged to have remained at a distance while Kiowa went down in a hail of blows from baseball bats, fence posts, kicks and punches. Three policemen are under investigation for possible dereliction of duty. The

testimony revealed a chilling indifference to the murder by local people. "I found a negro in front of the chemical factory," a hairdresser, 18, testified. "When I saw his face had been smashed, I continued walking. He was just a negro."

Cornelia Schmalz-Jacobson, federal commissioner for foreign affairs, called for stiff sentences for the killers. "The court should be as tough on right-wing extremists as left-wing ones." But Judge Hartmut Kamp said it was not for the court to set an example.

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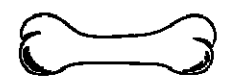
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FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN LIMA

In the midst of the captives stands Señor Guzmán, inscrutable behind thick spectacles and a large grey beard. His hands behind his back, star-

Before last weekend most Peruvians, including many of his supporters, had never set eyes on him, apart from in a few fuzzy police photographs (he was briefly captured in 1979) and one grainy video apparently showing the Maoist guerrilla dancing at a party.



For some, the sight of the communist leader, 57, at one point in the video staring sullenly from behind bars with a prisoner's placard — No. 1509 — around his neck, still proved terrifying: one woman stood in front of a television yesterday in a Lima hotel lobby, peeping out from between her fingers, and appealing to God and the Virgin.

The capture of the Shining Path guerrillas and Señor Guzmán has come at a critical

While the Peruvian government has hailed the capture of so many top "Senderistas" as a vital blow to a guerrilla movement that has killed more than 27,000 people, it is also preparing for a wave of violent revenge. The discipline and fanaticism of the Shining Path cadres far outweigh their numbers (they are thought to have as few as 5,000 active men and women); even without Señor Guzmán's outstanding leadership they represent a ferocious challenge to the Peruvian government. "They are still out of the head," remains the young Peruvian sentry's assessment as he stood in a crowd waving the video parade. "One

The streets of Lima yesterday were heavy with soldiers and armoured cars and tanks stood at many street corners.



violence has already replaced the spontaneous celebrations that took place on Saturday night in Lima's affluent suburbs. Now, security has been boosted in the richer areas and many of the wealthier citizens of Lima have reportedly taken refuge in the countryside or travelled abroad.

ment, leaving Señor Guzmán as a focus for future violent activity. The Senderistas have pulled off some remarkable escapes in the past.

Under recently-passed anti-terrorist laws, Señor Guzmán could alternatively be tried by a military court and executed, even though Peru's 1980 constitution (now suspended) outlawed the death penalty.

Should he thus acquire the status of a martyr, he would take his place to the pantheon of communist defies, ensuring the continuation of Peru's communist insurgency for many more bloody years.

The president's popularity has naturally soared, but once the euphoria wears off he faces a crucial dilemma. In a televised address on Sunday night he promised that the captured guerrillas would be subject to the "maximum penalty". That could mean life imprison-

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Bush campaign, struggling to develop a potent line of attack against Bill Clinton, has begun drawing heavily on the themes of John Major's victory against Neil Kinnock in April's general election.

Campaign officials have elected the prime minister's election speeches and the Tories' party political broadcasts and advertisements. In Washington last week Sir John Lacy, the Conservatives' former director of campaigning, and Mark Fullbrook, the new head of campaigning, briefed senior Republicans on the Tory victory. They included Fred Malek, the Bush campaign manager, Robert Teele, the chairman, and Charles Black, the senior adviser.

Mr Bush has yet to mount a soapbox, but increasingly he is attacking Mr Clinton on exactly the same fronts that Mr Major used to undermine Mr Kinnoch — taxes, trust and experience. Like Mr Major, Mr Bush is painting his opponent as a champion of higher taxation and bigger government, a throwback to the shambles of the late 1970s. "Who do you trust to bring it all home — foreign policy, security policy and economic policy? Who do you trust to lead the country?" he asks. "Just stop, listen and think. Dare you trust your home, your pension, your savings, your shares to the Labour party?" Mr Major attacked in April.

"The Tories' campaign made no bones of the fact the economy was bad, but that under Labour it could be dramatically worse. We think that message could be effective here," said Jeffrey Eisenach, the executive director of a Republican committee called Gopac, who organised the

visit by Sir John and Mr Fullwood at the request of their host, Newt Gingrich, the Republican House whip.

"The case against Mr Clinton is that you can't trust him, and you can't afford him," said Jim Pinkerton, a senior member of the Bush team. "Your elections have been ahead of ours for some time ... There are a lot of broad similarities."

"Both the Republicans and the Conservatives have the opportunity to ride the worldwide trend away from communism, bureaucracy and socialism. Clinton and Knack are going in the teeth of the momentum from all these

The big difference between the two campaigns is that Mr Major was a fresh face, and Republicans officials prefer to emphasise the similarities. Like Mr Major, Mr Bush is in incumbent facing a resurgent opposition that last held power in the 1970s, and is doing so at a time of economic hardship. Like Mr Major, he took over from a far more colourful and ideological predecessor.

But as in Britain, they still believe that despite the polls the electorate will ultimately consider Mr Clinton, like Mr Kinnock, just too big a risk.

L&T section page 4

The former American president, Richard Nixon, unsuccessful in his efforts to control access to papers and tapes from his White House days, is making a new attempt to be paid for public disclosure of the documents.

The US Court of Appeals in Washington was to hear arguments yesterday in the latest legal battle over the papers, including Watergate-related material. Mr Nixon is appealing against a ruling last year by Judge John Garrett Pann, who said the material belongs to the American people and the government did not owe Mr Nixon, who wants damages for loss of privacy, any more for taking them.

Bill Cosby, who retired from his television comedy programme, *The Cosby Show*, will earn millions from re-runs of the show, and again tops the list of *Forbes* magazine's

40 highest-paid entertainers with estimated earnings of \$1 million for 1991 and 1992.

Elleena Bond, the divorced wife of Australia's failed business tycoon, **Alan Bond**, told a Perth newspaper that she shredded some of his expensive suits in fits of anger during their 37-year marriage. Bond, 54, was freed from jail last month after serving three months of a 2½-year sentence for dishonesty. An appeal court has ordered a retrial.

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Cooperation between Aerospatiale and British aerospace industries has stood the test of time. More than 20 years ago their combined skills gave birth to Concorde and to the age of supersonic transport. Today, Aerospatiale and British Aerospace continue their close collaboration in the European Airbus programme - the 1800 aircraft which have been sold demonstrate the high degree of technological and commercial achievement they have reached together. Achievement which has also stimulated further cooperation in the development of joint defence programmes. As never before, the continued growth of the French and British aerospace industries now depends on maintaining this level of cooperation.



AEROSPATIALE

ACHIEVEMENT HAS A NAME

Pretoria acts over Bisho killings

Ciskei chief given severe reprimand

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

BRIGADIER Joshua "Oupa" Gqozo, the military ruler of Ciskei, one of four nominally independent black homelands, endured an uncomfortable five hours yesterday in Pretoria, as R.F. "Pik" Botha, the South African foreign minister, made his independence more nominal by giving him a dressing down, according to government sources.

Diplomats had suggested before the meeting that such control as he had over the tiny state's armed forces would be curbed. In the event, there was no mention of that in the post-meeting communiqué.

Even though the Ciskei Defence Force has been largely run by South Africans on secondment from, or recently retired from the South African Defence Force (SADF), the little brigadier has been the ultimate chief, and accordingly has taken the blame for the deaths of more than 30 African National Congress demonstrators outside his capital, Bisho, a week ago.

Last year Pretoria took control of his budget, complaining that their money was being recklessly mismanaged, and since then has controlled virtually every aspect of government there except the armed forces. Even now, the South Africans will not dis-

miss the brigadier who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1990.

The Ciskei Defence Force is commanded by Brigadier Marius Oelshag, who comes from South African military intelligence. The various chiefs of staff for finance, logistics and personnel also come from the SADF. The man in charge of the troops on the ground last Monday was Colonel Horst Schubesberger, an Austrian, who told a radio reporter in King William's Town at the weekend that he was "only obeying orders".

Brigadier Gqozo's defence minister, Colonel Siphiwo Pita, is the only minister remaining in office from the original military council set up after the 1990 coup.

The first talks to prepare for the summit between President de Klerk and Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, were held yesterday morning. Roelf Meyer, the constitutional development minister met Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC secretary-general, to try to resolve the difference over summit preconditions.

Mr Ramaphosa has declared that he expects some positive steps from the government on three items, the security of the migrant hostels, the carrying of traditional weapons, and the release of

political prisoners. Mr Meyer said during a joint television appearance on Sunday that these matters could be settled, but the government was not prepared to negotiate on the basis of ANC demands. There could be another damaging breakdown if neither side compromises.

The government is preparing legislation to be presented to the special session of parliament called for the middle of October, which will enable Mr de Klerk to create an interim administration should this be agreed with the black extra-parliamentary opposition. Under the present constitution cabinet members have to be MPs. A small constitutional amendment would enable them to be drawn from the non-parliamentary groups provided that they sought election within a limited period.

The government is also preparing legislation to abolish the so-called "own affairs" ministries.



Best foot forward: women shopping yesterday for shoes in the Afghan capital, Kabul, which is returning to normal as a peace-keeping force takes control. Afghans who fled the August fighting between government troops and the rebel Hezb-i-Islami

group are returning to the city, where a ceasefire is holding. Busloads of refugees arrive daily from Mazare Sharif in the north and Jalalabad in the east. "We came back because quietness has returned to Kabul," said one woman. (AFP)

Israel and Syria remain cautious

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

THE elusive goal of peace between Israel and Syria was set to dominate the sixth round of Middle East talks that resumed in Washington yesterday after a ten-day recess.

Prospects for an agreement between the two neighbours are likely to overshadow simultaneous Israeli talks with Palestinians, Jordanians and Lebanese. Before the talks, Israel and Syria made separate announcements apparently designed to dampen expectations of a deal. Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, reiterated that Israel would not discuss returning the occupied Golan Heights until Syria showed that it wanted a full peace treaty, while Farouk al-Sharaa, the Syrian foreign minister, again rejected any talk of a partial solution short of the return of the Golan.

However, Israeli right-wing supporters and many Palestinians remained fearful of a separate peace deal similar to that signed between Egypt and Israel in 1979. Golan settlers have begun a campaign of demonstrations in Israel, and Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman,

during a speech in Washington, accused Israel of trying to drive a wedge between the Arabs. "This is again another divide and conquer method," she claimed.

Yesterday Mr Rabin accused the Palestinians of skirting the key issue of the peace talks, that of interim self-rule for the 1.7 million Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. "Our problem with the Palestinians is that they are trying to change the subject to less relevant matters," Mr Rabin said in Tel Aviv. He claimed Israel was ready to discuss human rights, arrests and house demolitions, but said these were mere "symptoms".

The Palestinians have hardened their position recently, claiming that proposals which would allow Israel to maintain jurisdiction over nearly 70 per cent of West Bank land are totally unacceptable.

Islamicists have won a majority in elections for the Egyptian lawyers' syndicate, it was announced yesterday. All 14 fundamentalist candidates won places on the 24-seat ruling council, a sign of their growing strength.

Pakistan accused of 'neglect'

FROM AFP IN ISLAMABAD

BEAZIR Bhutto, leader of Pakistan's opposition, accused the government of "criminal neglect" yesterday as the worst floods this century spread southward, threatening villages, crops and livestock.

The toll of victims has increased hourly and could exceed 2,000, even before the waters reach the southern province of Sind, which was ravaged by floods in August. More than 1,000 people are dead in Kashmir and at least the same number are missing, according to official sources.

Material losses are "colossal", according to Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister of Pakistan, who announced a \$20 million emergency aid plan for disaster zones. Thousands of villages have been inundated, bridges have been washed away, roads submerged and thousands of livestock have perished. Miss Bhutto forecast famine in the coming months following the loss of homes and fields by tens of thousands of farmers.

London: Pakistani community associations in Britain have set up fundraising appeals and advice lines in response to the floods and asked Britain to increase its donation of \$100,000 (Kate Alderson writes).

UN troops arrive to guard aid

BY DAVID WATTS

FORTY armed United Nations troops, the first batch of 500 Pakistani soldiers, arrived in Mogadishu yesterday to help prevent the looting of food earmarked for two million starving Somalis.

Their objective will be to restore order at Mogadishu's port. Ten thousand tonnes of US sorghum has sat undelivered for two weeks in a dockside warehouse because a clan dispute has prevented aid workers from distributing it. On Sunday a Turkish cargo ship, carrying 6,500 tonnes of rice, beans and oil, finally docked after being anchored offshore for ten days.

The UN Security Council has authorised the deployment of 3,500 armed troops to Somalia, but only the initial 500-member Pakistani contingent has been approved by General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, the country's main warlord.

Yesterday Baroness Chalker, the British overseas development minister, witnessed the plight of Somali refugees in Kenyan camps. Tramping through scenes of human desolation in Mandera, and the nearby town of Majir, at the borders of Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, she said: "What has happened out here is tragic."

Moonlighting puts shine on economy

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN SHANGHAI

Cai Guangtian handed over his double-sized namecard listing eight titles, including Honorary Citizen of California. Like one of Shanghai's pre-communist entrepreneurs, he boasted of his wealth, then hurried off to where he is happiest, the dance floor and the karaoke lounge.

Since he retired nine years ago, Mr Cai, now 69, has created an education empire, the private Qianjin college, relying entirely on moonlighting teachers for his staff. Starting out with about £20, the former mathematics teacher now has 25,000 students and is a millionaire.

In the past, the authorities have criticised Mr Cai for bypassing the state system. But since Deng Xiaoping, China's senior leader, gave his blessing earlier this year to private enterprise and moonlighting as ways to boost the economy, Mr Cai could be the face of the future.

It's not just moonlighting, often it's sunlighting for me, too," an English teacher at Mr Cai's college said. His state school employers have not scheduled him to teach for one hour this term, leaving him free to spend all his time at

Qianjin college. As an incentive, Mr Cai's teachers are paid according to the results of their students. The extra income means that they do not leave for more profitable careers as so many teachers have. The teacher pointed to the hand playing for Mr Cai to twirl on the dance floor. "They're moonlighting from the conservatory," he said.

Under the state system, a teacher earns about as much as a factory worker — about £20 a month. An estimated 20 per cent of China's office and factory workers are surplus to requirements. Communist leaders called for radical reforms, which mean streamlining bureaucracies and laying off millions of people. But mass unemployment is a recipe for social unrest.

Rather than sacking workers, bosses let it be known that they would not mind if staff did not turn up for work. An employee who does no work cannot expect to get a bonus, but he will get most of his wage and benefits like housing. The workforce is streamlined, the employer saves some money, staff are happy, and the black economy booms.

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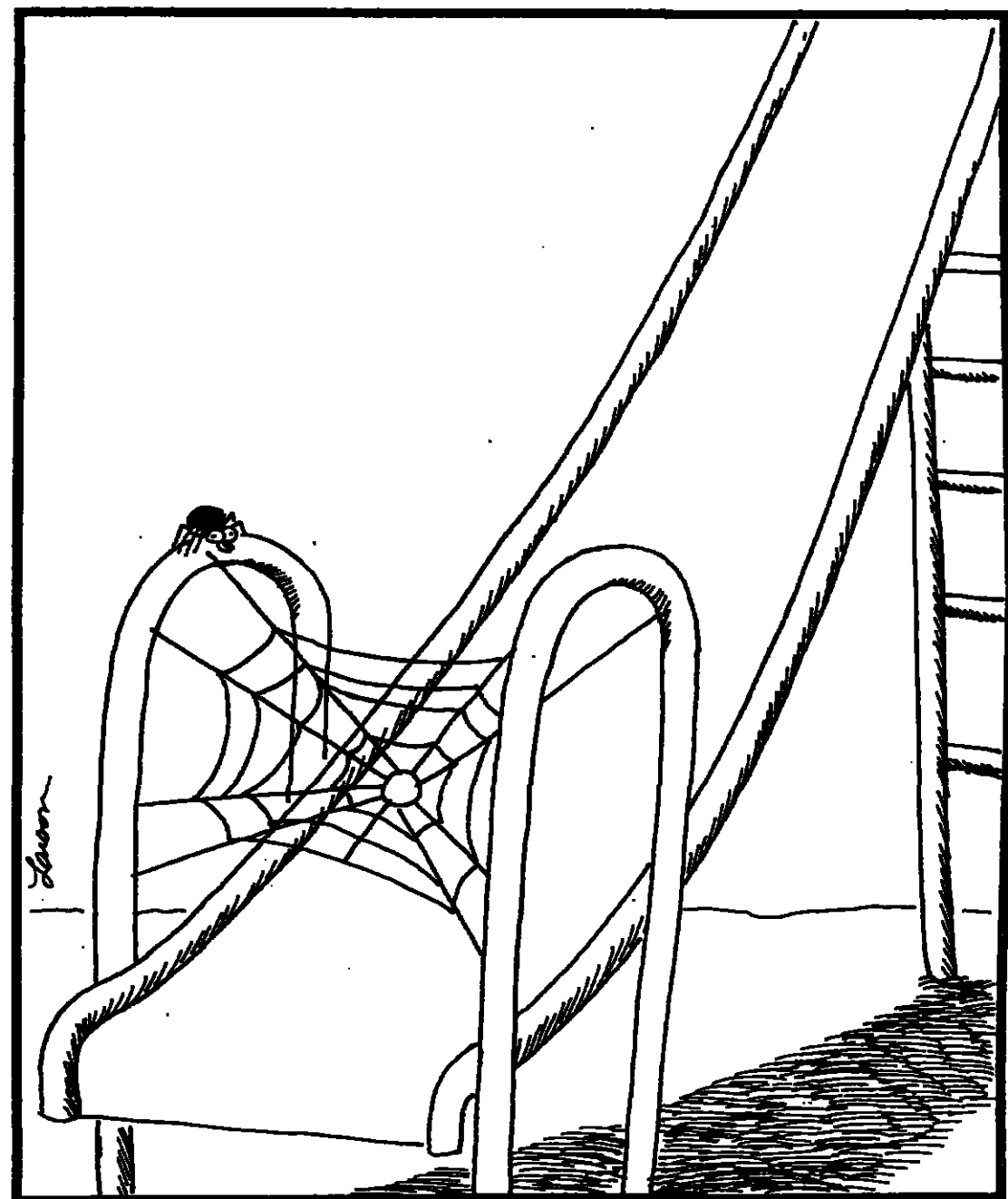
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24

Regicide in Russia

Daniel Johnson on the grim task of identifying the last of the Romanovs

It sounds like the plot of a Wexford or Morse crime novel. An unsolved murder case resurfaces: 74 years after the crime, the bodies are finally found. Today a Russian scientist arrives in Britain with an attaché case full of bones. bound for the Home Office forensic laboratories at Aldermaston. These bones are almost certainly the remains of Nicholas II, the last Romanov tsar, and eight other members of his family and entourage whom the Bolsheviks shot or bayoneted to death at Yekaterinburg on July 16, 1918.

By comparing the bones with DNA samples from living relatives, including members of the British royal family, a definitive identification will be possible. There can be no trial. The murderers and their masters escaped human justice a long time ago, including the man who was probably the guiltiest of all: Vladimir Ilyich Lenin.

For many years, the Soviet authorities shielded Lenin from direct complicity, and even Gorbachev protested his allegiance until his fall. But recent post-perestroika literature, such as Edward Radzinsky's *The Last Tsar*, leaves little room for doubt that Lenin personally authorised the "liquidation" of a family which in 1918 was still a threat to the revolution.

Regicide is no ordinary crime: it cries out not merely for vengeance — though regicides have often been pursued beyond the grave: remember Cromwell's exhumed corpse hung from a gibbet — but for expiation. A nation which has permitted its "little father", his wife and children to be massacred must somehow make amends. The fact that Russians never mourned their royal family before could explain this year's wave of scholarly and sentimental interest in the Romanov dynasty.

Victims of regicide are commonly accorded informal canonisation. Charles I was turned into a kind of baroque saint within weeks of his execution, helped by the publication of his apologetic *Eikon Basilike*. There were 35 editions in 1649 alone. In the case of Louis XVI, the cult focused on his wife Marie Antoinette, and began long before either was executed: witness Burke's famous passage about her in his *Reflections*: "I thought ten thousand swords must have leaped from their scabbards to avenge even a look that threatened her with insult. But the age of chivalry is gone." The deposed queen wept as she read these words.

Yekaterinburg was butchery, with the bodies buried in an unmarked grave, neither pomp nor dignity: not even a crowd to jeer at the "widow Capet". Like Hitler, who took revenge on the families of conspirators after the July plot, the Bolsheviks believed in Sippenhaft, blood guilt, slaughtering as many of the tsar's family as they could lay their hands on.

The last tsar was typical of his time and class. Like Charles I and Louis XVI, Nicholas II was not a brilliant man. His diaries are famously banal. He was also narrow-minded. When he stayed at Sandringham in 1894 while still tsarevich, he wrote to his mother to complain that the Prince of Wales's house party was "rather strange. Most of them were horse dealers, amongst others a Baron Hirsch" Hirsch was one of the prince's main Jewish friends, which Nicholas found bizarre.

Nicholas's tragedy was that he never exerted his power when it mattered. Kaiser Wilhelm II told Woodrow Wilson's envoy in 1916: "I and my cousins George and Nicholas will make peace when the time comes." When the time came, their emperors had fallen. The conventional wisdom is that neither man could have made much difference. Yet in August 1915 another emperor weighed down by convention, Hirohito, was decisive. Nicholas could have made a better peace up to March 1917 than Lenin and Trotsky did at Brest-Litovsk, and would have saved his throne. None of this matters now, except to historians. The Russians will have the Nicholas they need, whether the last tsar is buried where he died or in St Petersburg. All the resources of modern genetic science are being deployed to authenticate remains which may then, after a decent Christian burial, join the royal bones that have been revered by the pious since prehistoric times.

In dodging the draft, Clinton and Quayle were typical of middle-class students in the Sixties, says Janet Daley

No stomach for a fight

Dan Quayle and Bill Clinton may be ducking and diving to avoid what has now become a liability but when I was an undergraduate at Berkeley in the Sixties, dodging the draft was a proud way of life. To have gone willingly to war would have been the shaming option. And this was not only the view at Berkeley, where we were inventing what would become the international student lifestyle of politics, pot and promiscuity. It was the conventional moral wisdom among the thinking classes of America that, whatever your general views on pacifism, the war which the United States was waging in Vietnam was, in the fashionable pejorative of the time, "obscene".

There was scarcely a pro-war commentator who was taken seriously by the intelligentsia. Interpretations of the military intervention in Vietnam ranged from pragmatic regret ("unwinnable and wasteful") to the apocalyptic ("imperialist genocide"). But whatever the colour of

your moral outrage, the conclusion was inevitable. This was a war in which it was unforgivable to fight. The landmarks of our youth were mass demonstrations against the war and in favour of civil rights. The two issues were linked then only by the sentiments of the participants; later the link would prove ironically apt as a huge disproportion of those who died in Vietnam were black. Draft cards were ceremonially burnt — a federal offence — and recanting Vietnam veterans publicly threw away their medals in disgust.

But the exhibitionist anguish of undergraduates was a luxury. The United States may idealise militarism as part of its revolutionary heritage, but it believes even more unequivocally in the value of higher education. So the one condition which preserved

you from the draft without question was to be a student. As a consequence even larger numbers of my fellow countrymen than usual developed a passionate desire to go to university and, having got there, to remain as long as possible. Since the academic authorities were themselves sympathetic to this pretext, they obliged whenever possible with postgraduate places and teaching assistantships which made possible the pursuit of doctorates.

Away from the campuses with their ritual clashes with police which dominated the home newspaper coverage, the kids from the inner cities for whom university was never on the cards, were being sent to Vietnam. Middle-class offspring were indulging their moral conscience while working-class ones

were dying and being maimed, both physically and spiritually, in a hopeless and unpopular war.

The overwhelmingly working-class character of the American army in Vietnam has been captured with unflinching accuracy in post-war "guilt" cinema. Films like *Apocalypse Now* and *Born on the Fourth of July* were shocking not only because they were vividly anti-war but because of the way they depicted the social make-up of America's fighting force in Southeast Asia.

The war dragged on, destroying the political credibility of presidents and decimating the fabric of family relations. What to do when you were finally turfed out of college became the dilemma as the late Sixties arrived and there was still no end in sight. I can recall a postgraduate philosophy student agonising

over whether to become a conscientious objector. While opposed to fighting in Vietnam, he would not have objected to fighting Hitler, so could he legitimately call himself a pacifist? We debated this far into the night, finally concluding that to stretch the truth might be unethical, but it was morally preferable to spraying peasants with napalm.

Responsive to market forces as always, the United States soon had a growth industry in avoiding the draft. Self-help books gave a point-by-point guide to the regulations and their loopholes. Guides for following the well-worn paths to Canada and Scandinavia were circulated.

The rich and well-connected never had to flee. Like one J. Danforth Quayle, they could rely on strings being pulled by parents to see them into a home-

bound sinecure for the duration. Bill Clinton, to my purely impressionistic eye, seems to have been a case of Sixties sensibility: going to Oxford on a fellowship, smoking the occasional joint, he seems fairly typical of what the thoughtful young of his generation saw as the right priorities. That he would, if at all possible, have avoided fighting in Vietnam is almost axiomatic.

But that was in a more innocent age when what Americans meant by moral conflict was the arguments that you had with your parents. We know now that there were whole sections of the population for whom such debate was far too academic, in every sense. And among the bitter realisations is the discrepancy between what happened to the boys from the poor cities, and to the ones from the affluent suburbs in the debate that was Vietnam. What is rebounding on Dan Quayle and Bill Clinton is not that they were wrong in their youth but that they had the luxury to be right.

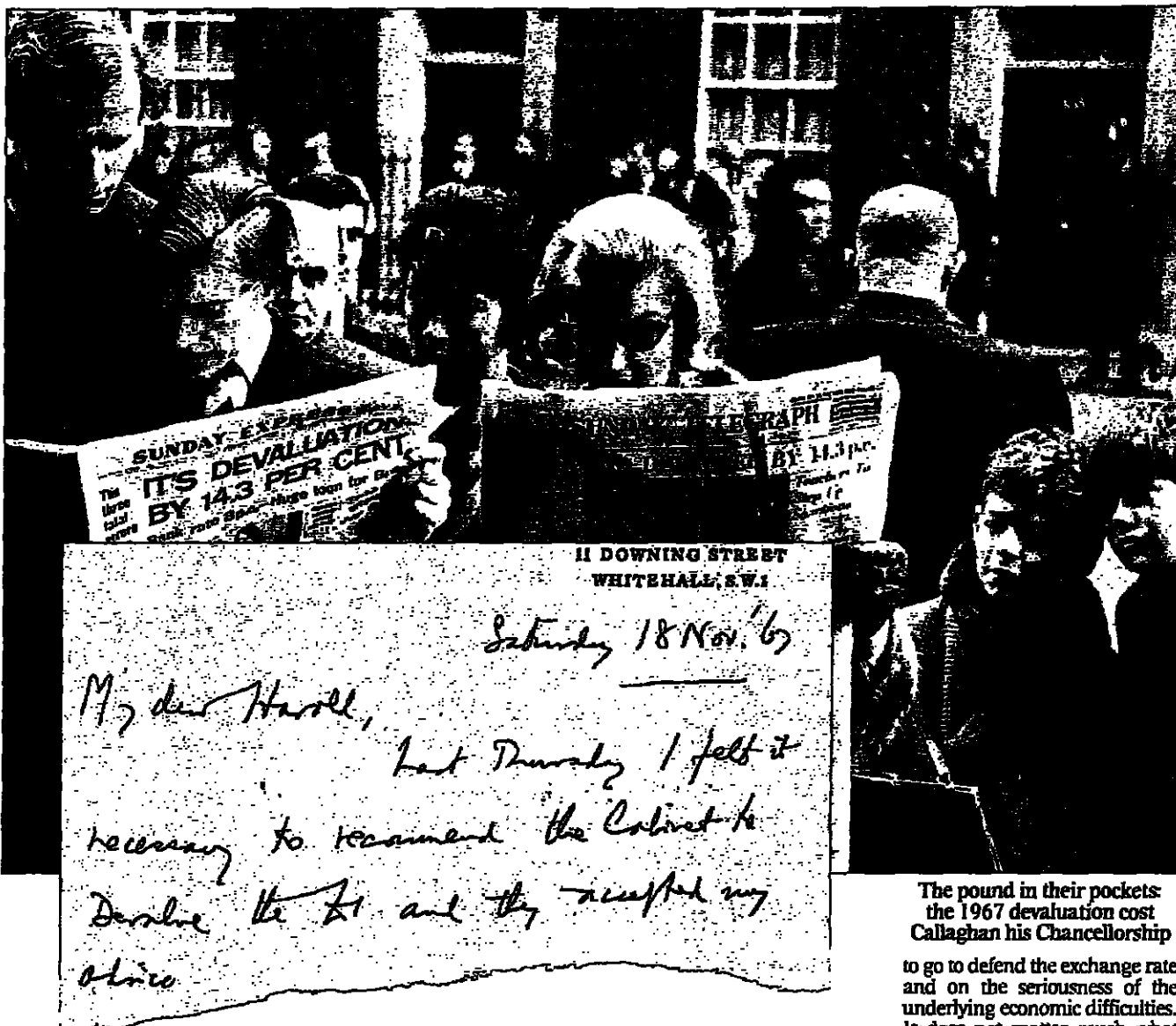
The political price of the pound

A run of good luck is needed to save the Chancellor, says Peter Riddell

With one bound the beleaguered Chancellor of the Exchequer was free. Not quite. Yesterday's gyrations in the financial markets show that Norman Lamont and John Major have not yet escaped their predicament over the exchange rate mechanism (ERM), for all Downing Street's claims about a turning point. Each step by the government over the past few weeks — Mr Lamont's doorstep statement, the huge international loan, Mr Major's unequivocal rejection last Thursday of devaluation and the coordinated actions of Sunday night — has committed the prime minister and the Chancellor even more firmly to maintaining sterling's current parity. By comparison, Margaret Thatcher's "there is no alternative" refrain of the early 1980s seems like a malleable aspiration.

Any further ERM realignment involving sterling would be a big defeat for Mr Major and Mr Lamont, as devaluation was for Harold Wilson and James Callaghan in 1967. Their political credibility would be seriously damaged, and Mr Lamont might have to leave the Treasury. However, yesterday's reduction in German interest rates, while smaller than hoped and not permitting an immediate cut in British rates, should give him a little breathing space.

At present, Mr Lamont is in the familiar position of earlier Chancellors trying to defend a fixed exchange rate band. Contrary to some recent discussion, failure is not inevitable. Between the Second World War and the breakdown of the Bretton Woods system of fixed rates in the early 1970s, there were only two



devaluations, in 1949 and 1967, both after long periods of trying to maintain existing parities. In 1967, James Callaghan regarded the eventual devaluation as such a defeat for his policy that he decided to resign as Chancellor. On several other occasions, though, Chancellors as diverse as R.A. Butler, Harold Macmillan and Selwyn Lloyd successfully defended the pound's exchange rate via international loans, higher interest rates and coordinated central bank action of the

kind seen in the past few weeks. Moreover, the floating rate regime of the 1970s and 1980s did not prevent frequent sterling crises. Like his predecessors, Mr Lamont has depended on a mixture of resolution, cunning, and luck. He has shown plenty of the first two, surprising the markets both with the loan to bolster sterling and with Sunday's moves. But he has so far had little luck. He took over as Chancellor shortly after the decision had been taken by Mr

Major to join the ERM, largely for political reasons, even though Treasury officials feared the timing was wrong, given the state of the economy. Mr Lamont's 22 months as Chancellor have been marked by a much longer recession than anyone feared, and by the strains on the ERM resulting from German unification.

There is, in practice, only a limited amount a Chancellor can do. The outcome depends both on how far financial markets believe governments are willing

to go to defend the exchange rate and on the seriousness of the underlying economic difficulties. It does not matter much what Chancellors say; indeed, anything can be harmful, and costly to the reserves, as Lord Callaghan found when he had to answer Commons questions a few days before the 1967 devaluation. What matters is actions and governments can run out of options.

Temporary borrowings can be depleted, as happened in 1949, 1967 and 1976; and interest rates can be raised. But neither may be sufficient, as the Italian government discovered last week after the Bundesbank had to

intervene on a massive scale to support the lira. The difficulty, as now, is that after each option is exercised, a subsequent devaluation looks even more like a damaging political defeat.

The underlying difficulties contributing to the recent pressures for sterling have not really changed. Yesterday's action by the Bundesbank was a gesture rather than a basic change in policy. For all the government's attempt to deny that there is a "sterling crisis", the British economy remains weak with no sign of an upturn before next year.

Mr Lamont's dilemma now is that he has used up most, though not all, his available options. If pressures on sterling develop again, then after the French vote on the Maastricht treaty next Sunday, the main available action would be to raise interest rates. Senior ministers and advisers to Mr Major stress that the prime minister is willing to take that step if it is the only way to avoid devaluation.

The relationship between the prime minister and the Chancellor is crucial to the unity of the government, and there are no divisions between the two on this matter. Whatever private doubts some ministers might have about avoiding an eventual realignment involving sterling, there is also no debate or dissent within the Cabinet on the issue. Nor is there any possibility of a challenge by Tory MPs on economic policy. The main impact may be to strengthen the hands of the Euro-skeptics who oppose ratification of the Maastricht treaty. A further complication is that, simultaneously, the government faces very difficult decisions on public spending, requiring cuts in some departments' future budgets.

At last Thursday's Cabinet meeting, Mr Major made a point of praising Mr Lamont's handling of sterling, producing vocal, if predictable, assent from other ministers. They know they are all in the same boat. Mr Major and Mr Lamont have to do much more than satisfy the cabinet. They face worried Tory activists in a month's time.

by surprise than Michèle Roberts, the only woman among the authors making it through to the last six. Indeed until she returned from holiday in France over the weekend the author of *Daughters of the House* did not even know of her success in making it to the last hurdle.

"We were on the cross channel ferry where my husband managed to buy a British newspaper," she says. "He saw a cartoon in one of the papers which showed a lot of men in flat caps at the bookies, one of whom was reading my book. I was asleep and he woke me up to say he thought I must be on the shortlist."

Roberts still did not believe it and only after a swift round-up of the other British papers on board did the truth sink in. "We had a large gin and tonic," she says. "But since then it's been hyper-normal. I've been cleaning the oven and having my study redecorated." She will not, however, be losing any sleep between now and October 13 wondering if she can carry off the top prize. Yesterday she confessed she was happily ignorant even of the date of the award ceremony.

There is a corner of Eton that will be forever Zimbabwe. Three acres of Queen's Eton, the island the college owns in the Thames, are to be turned into a sculpture park for displaying works by the Shona of Zimbabwe. College bursar Roderick Watson says: "We wanted a sculpture park but we were worried about the security of the sculptures. Queen's Eton is ideal since it is an island and we have keepers living there." Previously the island has been used only by Old Etonians, rowing downstream from the college to picnic there. Nicholas Baylton-Pritchard, of the Contemporary Fine Art Gallery, is off to Zimbabwe to collect the 30 statues next month.



...and moreover CRAIG BROWN

Continuing our serialisation of *Craig Brown's* utterly frank and candid autobiography, *My Life As a Senior Figure Working in a Prominent Capacity in a Significant Position* (Weidenfeld, £18.99):

Chapter 6: In which I disagree with Margaret

Contrary to popular opinion, Margaret admired those of us who stood up to her. I well remember one occasion when we crossed swords. It was just three days after I had received a rapturous reception at an important speaking engagement at a location in the South East. The other members of the Cabinet had left the room, and as so often happened the two of us — Margaret and myself — proceeded to get on with the real business of government. Margaret suggested a major reform of a particular area of public life.

"You do agree with me, don't you?" she added.

In fact I did not, and I was not afraid to tell her so fairly and squarely to her face. "Frankly, Margaret, I would by no means go so far as to say that I entirely disagreed," I said, in no uncertain terms. I then looked her straight in the face, took a deep breath, stuck my heels in and added, calmly but fairly, "In fact, quite the opposite." I emerged from that meeting having increased her respect and admiration for me. Later in the day, I opened a postbag containing thousands of letters, all but a handful tremendously supportive of my decision to wear a lighter

blue stripe in my shirt over the warmer summer months.

Chapter 7: In which I describe in vivid detail an important meeting with a major political figure sometime in the Seventies or Eighties

At some point during the Seventies or subsequent Eighties, I had an important meeting with a major political figure. He or she informed me through a close colleague that there was a matter of great importance they had to discuss with me. We met and discussed the matter at some length. It was an important meeting, and I can now reveal that I came away from it feeling convinced that I had been talking on a topic of great importance to a prominent political figure.

Later that day, I received a standing ovation from an enthusiastic audience after making a speech on a particular matter of political importance.

Chapter 8: In which I reveal all about the large cloud that loomed on the horizon

At around this stage of my career, a large cloud began to loom large on the horizon. One day, I took the decision to speak in private with a particular colleague or colleagues.

"I have to tell you," I said, quite openly, "that there is a large cloud that is beginning to loom large on my horizon."

He, she or they then turned to me, and said: "What sort of cloud?"

"A large cloud," I said.

"And where is it?"

"I'll be frank," I said. "It's on the horizon."

We then resumed talking about other matters of importance. In the press the next day, I was relieved to see that there was not a word about clouds or even horizons. I have always been grateful to the person or persons concerned for such discretion. That evening, I wrote myself an enthusiastic memo welcoming my decision to confront the large cloud head on.

Chapter 9: In which I confront the Party Conference

It was to be one of the most difficult speeches of my political life. Once again, I chose to confront the issue head-on. "I am here today," I said, "in my capacity as a man who is speaking to you from this platform here today. I would not be speaking to you here today if I was elsewhere. And, let's make no bones about it, you would not be listening to me today if you were elsewhere. But we are not. We are all here. Let us never forget that. Let us look to the future without forgetting the past. And — perhaps just as important in the years to come — let us never forget the past when looking to the future. Finally, let us never ever underestimate the importance of the present." Needless to say, the response of the audience was deafening: at one point, it even seemed as if they might be about to applaud. Later that day, I opened hundreds of admiring letters, a gratifying and quite unexpected response to an afternoon spent, with customary industry, writing them.

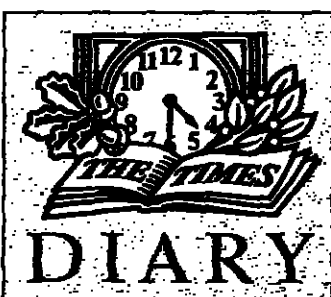
Harold, Jim, John and Norm

WHETHER AS tragedy or farce, history is set to repeat itself, according to the historian Ben Pimlott, who has just completed his definitive study of Harold Wilson and the 1967 sterling crisis. The similarities, down to the very phrases used by Wilson and his chancellor James Callaghan when the pound was last devalued a quarter of a century ago, are uncanny, according to Pimlott, whose biography *Harold Wilson* is to be published this autumn.

Then, as now, Downing Street ruled out devaluation, ensuring that the subject dominated all economic debate. "Once Wilson had staked his reputation it became harder to change his mind," Pimlott says. "The wish not to sacrifice honour and credibility became one of the biggest obstacles to a change of course."

Like Wilson, Pimlott says, Major has busily closed off all alternatives. As a result the prime minister's words, in both cases, ensured that national and personal pride became inextricably bound up with what is essentially a technical decision. Callaghan became the scapegoat as he was left to defend the policy, most famously in a no confidence debate in July 1967.

"Devaluation talk has become modish among theoretical economists... but it could become dangerous if listened to abroad," Callaghan said, adding that his proponents had taken a "flight from reality". Labour rebels demanding devaluation were "good men fallen among bad economists". He could almost have been John Smith talking about Bryan Gould today. Less than four months later the pound was devalued.



"It looks ominously like 1967," Pimlott said yesterday. "Politicians inexorably dig their own graves and as a historian I have to say history looks like repeating itself."

If Pimlott is right, the sequel could be equally interesting. Upon devaluation in November 1967, Callaghan resigned "on a point of honour" but took the considerable consolation prize of home secretary. If Major is forced to devalue — and Pimlott believes it is "when" rather than "if" — Norman Lamont's Treasury position begins to look equally untenable.

After all it was only six weeks ago that he insisted: "Devaluation is fool's gold. Other countries within the ERM are not prepared to sacrifice the hard-won credibility of their currencies by devaluing them. Nor are we." Try telling that to the Italians.

Not everyone in the Tory party seems to think David Mellor can survive. The Central Office guide to events at next month's party conference at Brighton, is published tomorrow and lists a meeting organised by the Tory parliamentary tourism committee to be addressed by "the Secretary of State for National Heritage, Robert Key". A prediction that by next month Mellor's deputy will have taken over his job or simply a good old cock-up? Central Office, which produced the guide, isn't saying.

Serbian snub

THE good folk of Cardiff are taking sanctions against Serbia very seriously. So incensed are the city elders by the Bosnian bloodbath that they have cancelled an appearance later this month by the Belgrade String Orchestra, perhaps the most prominent ensemble to have survived the collapse of Yugoslavia.

Michael Tearle, organiser of the Cardiff festival, says: "The DTI said this was a borderline case, but it has been decided that we cannot permit the performance to take place."

Welsh music lovers will be de-

How do you say 'welshed' in Serbo-Croat?



nied not only Mozart, Shostakovich and Elgar but the first British performance of a work by the Serbian composer Katarina Miljkovic. The orchestra has written to register its "dismay", saying it always believed Britain to stand for the greater freedom so long denied in its own country.

Who, me?

NOT only the critics were caught on the hop by the Booker shortlist last week. No one was taken more



LESSONS OF REALIGNMENT

If the devaluation of the lira and slight easing of German interest rates have shown anything, it is that the European exchange-rate mechanism cannot continue with its currencies bound together with uniform lengths of manacle like prisoners in a chain gang. When one prisoner trips, the others invariably stumble in his wake. So it is with a system of fixed exchange rates.

In the two years since reunification, the German economy has faltered and the other 11 members of the system have lost their balance too because of their self-denying insistence on avoiding realignments. Free currencies would be best. Sunday's realignment, the first for five years, should, at least, act as the trigger for a return to the old, more flexible system in which parities were not maintained against economic common sense simply as a form of machismo.

If the ERM is to survive, whether the French vote yes or no in their referendum, it will have to adopt this more flexible mould. Now that the Italians have devalued, currency traders simply will not believe that Sunday's realignment is the last. If this means that the next devaluation will be of sterling, the most vulnerable currency in the system, so be it.

The weekend politicking has also at last put the lie to the notion that the German Bundesbank is independent from government. The bank had said as recently as last week that it did not want to cut interest rates because domestic conditions did not justify a loosening of monetary policy. The reduction, albeit reluctant and parsimonious, was a reaction both to pressure from the German government and to the currency market intervention by other countries which was threatening to play havoc with Germany's money supply.

Those who lament the Bundesbank's lost independence, such as the Liberal Democrats and City financiers who call for an independent Bank of England, are misguided. True, politicians try to manipulate their economies for electoral ends. But they

are conspicuously unsuccessful; witness both John Major and George Bush fighting elections in the middle of a recession. The great disadvantage of a so-called independent central bank is that politicians can get away with mismanagement of economic policy.

Germany and America are usually held up as peerless examples of economies run by high-minded central bankers untainted by political influence. The history of the past 15 years in both countries shows otherwise. Governments blame central banks for keeping interest rates higher than politics would dictate. The banks claim high interest rates are necessary because the government is playing fast and loose with public spending. Each then tries to compensate for the other's perceived sins: interest rates stay punitive, while the deficit widens.

If both monetary and fiscal policy are under the control of one authority, they can be used to reinforce rather than compete with each other. Governments can cut interest rates and tighten public spending at the same time. Of course politicians will sometimes make bad decisions, but that is their prerogative: at least they can be thrown out of office, unlike unaccountable central bankers.

Here lies a lesson for post-Maastricht Europe. Even if the French vote yes on Sunday, the stirrings of unease with the treaty will have to be addressed. The Bundesbank's obsession with reducing inflation at the expense of growth and prosperity, and its only grudging response to pressure from politicians, are merely a forerunner of what lies ahead under European monetary union with an independent central bank. Most Europeans would not be prepared to see their economies in prolonged recession for the sake of the odd percentage point off the rate of inflation. Their preferences should count with those appointed to run economic policy. In the present treaty, such accountability is sadly lacking.

TEACHERS' PIPEDREAMS

Union pay claims often have more to do with internal politics than expectation of success. So it is with the National Union of Teachers' optimistic pitch for a 16.5 per cent rise, submitted yesterday to Sir Graham Day's review body. Teachers in the classroom know that the figure is unattainable, but the activists who expose the union to ridicule every Easter expect nothing less. The NUT's leaders dare not risk one of the other five teachers' organisations showing more ambition for its members.

Doug McAvoy, the NUT's general secretary, gave the game away in his comments on yesterday's claim. "The government will tell us that now in the middle of recession it is not the right time to increase investment in the service." Indeed it will, and quite rightly so, if this means raising pay at four times the rate of inflation. Teachers have done relatively well in the past two pay rounds, staffing shortages have practically disappeared from schools, and recruitment to the profession is buoyant. Market forces are certainly not on the NUT's side.

Like other public servants, teachers have also been insulated from the worst effects of the recession on job security. Even given the pressures of budget cuts and local management, teachers' prospects cannot be compared with a precarious existence in the private sector. The government is entitled to ask them to make some sacrifice in return.

Fortunately for the teachers, however, not all the omens are unfavourable. John Major has a longstanding commitment to raising their status, and the pay review body (which the NUT still opposes) may offer some escape from the more rigid restrictions facing other public servants. Even before his election as prime minister was secured, Mr Major said, "What I want to achieve is a position where the man in the woolly sweater and the battered sedan and the grimy house at the corner of the street is not the local teacher."

DOWN WITH ST CAKE'S

Only in Britain could there be a self-help group for those scarred by boarding school. In most other countries, only bad or unfortunate children are sent away from home at a tender age. Only those already deemed ripe for social working are locked up for strangers in a communal barracks, forced to sleep in expensive dormitories, kept ever ready to flag (an English term that alarms Americans) and be bullied and flogged.

But in Britain, from the Renaissance onwards, foreign visitors have remarked on the strange native custom of sending ordinary well-behaved children away from home as soon as possible, originally to court or the household of the local magnate, and then to the public schools — another English phrase that puzzles foreigners. They usually conclude that the English prefer their animals to their children.

By the accidents of history and national idiosyncrasy, the boarding school plays a unique role in English history and literature. Boarding-school discipline is said to inculcate typical English virtues, ranging from the stiff upper lip to the thin red line, and then to the public schools — another English phrase that puzzles foreigners. They usually conclude that the English prefer their animals to their children.

English institutions from construe to prefects and ruck-shops, and from cold baths, muscular Christianity and cricket (and rugby) to playing up, playing up, and

There is good reason to pursue such an ideal if the government is serious about its education reforms. The teaching profession will not hold the attractions it does today when economic recovery opens up other employment opportunities. Schools must be able to hold on to their best staff, and this will not be easy if they are held to a uniform 2 per cent pay rise when morale is already low. There are some highly desirable aspirations in the NUT's claim: teachers do need free time to prepare lessons, and class sizes are too large in many parts of the country. But to expect to achieve them in a recession, while also securing excessive pay rises, is simply irresponsible. In the current economic climate, the first result of accepting the union's claim would be to make thousands of its members redundant.

Only by accepting performance-related pay can teachers hope to move up the pay league. To pretend that all 400,000 teachers are worth identical rises, or that there is no way of telling the good from the poor, is a fiction that few other groups still cling to. Pupils have always been able to identify the best teachers, as has any decent head of department. A system that rewards excellence in the classroom, and not just a willingness to take on extra duties, is long overdue.

John Patten, the education secretary, has given the review body a clear indication of the type of arrangements he wants, and will make a more detailed submission later this week. He has ruled out a return to the invidious system of payment by results, and has asked Sir Graham to put more power into the hands of head teachers. Schools are eminently capable of devising pay structures that protect the living standards of all staff while rewarding the best. They must be given as much freedom as possible if the government's devolution of responsibility is to add up to anything more than rhetoric.

playing the game like English gentlemen rather than playing to win, grew directly from the boarding schools. When the Duke of Wellington asserted (if he did) that the battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton, he was perhaps referring to the bloody bare-knuckle fights that used to take place behind the Fives courts, and hardened his lieutenants to hard pounding.

But if the French bullets did not get them, their earlier experiences almost certainly did — or so argue those running the recovery programme described on our news pages today. Self-help therapy is supposed to stop those who might otherwise end up like Captain L. E. G. Oates (Etonian, of course), walking out into the Antarctic blizzard saying he might be gone some time.

Along with its triumphalism, the English have often before now creatively recognised the down side of boarding school, from Dotheboys Hall to Captain Grimes and *If*. There have always been children who have persuaded themselves that they were wretchedly unhappy at school, whether boarding or day, and there always will be.

The latest group, Boarding School Survivors, for men who feel emotionally scarred by the allegedly happiest days of their lives, meet in London to confess their miseries and chips, and to re-enact their past with photographs of schooldays. It may sound what public school boys would call "wet". It is a sign of the potency of boarding-school values that when Margaret Thatcher, no Cheltenham Lady she, wanted an epithet to describe her opponents in the Tory party, she reached for that classic of boarding-school slang. But at least it could only happen here.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Medical insurance under scrutiny

From Mr George Foster

Sir, Anyone reading the report on medical fees and a possible "cartel" (September 9) could be forgiven for being puzzled as to where the cartel actually existed.

In private health care today we are in a position where the largest health insurance company (Bupa) owns over 50 per cent of the private hospitals in the United Kingdom. It is thus in a position to set the rates that these hospitals charge and these are followed broadly by the majority of other private hospital companies.

This large health insurance company then issues guidelines on fees to which the overwhelming majority of consultants adhere and completes the circle by controlling the subscriptions from its customers seeking private health insurance cover.

Thus, if a cartel does exist it is amongst the medical insurance companies and certainly not amongst the medical profession, but I am sure the majority of my colleagues are like myself, in that we are happy to comply as we do not like to feel our patients are out of pocket when they seek their private treatment; a situation that does not seem to pertain when I try to claim on either my house or my car insurance policies.

Yours faithfully,
G. E. FOSTER
(Consultant surgeon),
Grosvenor Nuffield Hospital,
Wrexham Road, Chester,
September 9.

From Mr P. A. Ring

Sir, A newly-appointed consultant to the NHS in a clinical specialty rapidly finds that he can fill two or three sessions in the local private hospital undertaking work that is generated primarily by the existence of the hospital rather than his own particular professional reputation.

Clearly there is a need to change the contractual arrangements of such appointments. A system in which fees earned in private practice revert to the primary employing authority, i.e., the local district, is one that some academic institutions, particularly abroad, have used, and has some merit in overall funding, but is

unlikely to find general acceptance within the profession.

It would be more realistic to acknowledge that in any clinical consultant appointment some sessions would be spent in the private hospital and that these sessions would be paid at a fixed rate, somewhat higher than that which the health service offers.

Yours faithfully,
P. A. RING
(Consultant orthopaedic surgeon),
Garwick Park Hospital,
Povey Cross Road, Horley, Surrey,
September 9.

From Sir Christopher Pinsent

Sir, Your health services correspondents' report (September 9) quoted a medical insurance spokesman as saying that the pricing of procedures was done by the British Medical Association alone, without assistance from the insurance companies.

Is this perhaps but the visible tip of an iceberg, beneath which is the fact that medical insurance, whether private or national, is more or less effectively controlled not by the subscribers but by the orthodox medical profession itself?

If this were not the case, subscribers would be covered for a number of other proven and economical arts of healing such as chiropractics and acupuncture.

Most of us admire engine drivers. But that did not prevent us in the past from observing that the noble Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen appeared to be holding the nation to ransom.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER PINSENT,
The Chestnuts, Castle Hill,
Guildford, Surrey,
September 10.

From Ms Angela Minoli

Sir, I once enquired of my sister, who lives in Canada, how soon she needed to have a forthcoming operation. She replied: "Certainly before the end of my surgeon's financial year!"

Yours faithfully,
ANGELA MINOLI,
184 Llandaff Road,
Pontcanna, Cardiff.

Housing needs in the countryside

From Mr Clive Aslet

Sir, It is wrong to blame newcomers for obstructing economic development in the countryside (leading article, September 10). Of course they want to prevent new construction when they can be sure the result will be miserably inappropriate to the surroundings. The fault lies not with them but with some of the threadbare ideas that govern planning.

On the whole, the planning system has been effective in preventing the worst excesses of development in our countryside, which remains the most beautiful in the world. Unfortunately, the quality of the development which goes through the net is for the most part atrocious.

Britain's top architects build almost exclusively in cities. The efforts of most speculative house builders and other developers display an impoverishment of imagination that is the shame of Britain.

Recently there have been signs that a different kind of country architecture — one worthy of the name — is possible. But the planning system, remorselessly suburbanising as it is, continues to encourage all the wrong forms of development, while putting rational development beyond hope of achievement. Fresh thinking by the Department of the Environment would help produce buildings that even some hardened Nimbys might like. Higher standards would bring to overcome the passionate opposition to change presently felt not just by newcomers, but established country dwellers too.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE ASLET
(Editor designate),
Country Life,
King's Reach Tower,
Stamford Street, SE1,
September 10.

From Mr Phil Turner

Sir, The Duke of Westminster and his colleagues (report, September 10) are to be congratulated for drawing attention to the increasingly serious problems facing our rural areas and in particular the need for appropriate, affordable housing.

The shortage can be remedied only

by action on the part of developers and in particular rural landowners. Low-cost land is necessary to build cheap housing. A number of enlightened landowners have recently set an example by making land available at less than normal market value.

Even if all planning controls were swept away it is unlikely that an abundance of affordable housing would result. A far more likely cause of shortage is a mass of large "executive-style" homes catering for the wealthier sections of the community.

The Royal Town Planning Institute supports the efforts being made in many areas for agencies such as the Rural Development Commission, conservation groups, developers and local authorities to work together on agreeing and implementing integrated rural development strategies.

Yours truly,
PHIL TURNER
(Chairman, Countryside Panel),
Royal Town Planning Institute,
26 Portland Place, W1,
September 11.

From Professor Gordon E. Cherry

Sir, The thrust of the Duke of Westminster's enquiry is to be welcomed. A significant shift is required in planning policies.

National policies have related too much to matters of form and we have been content to freeze-dry our landscape in its "traditional" appearances. But this is to forget function and the long-term pressure for change.

The chances are that the 21st century countryside will be relatively more urbanised and more industrialised than at any time since the middle of the 19th century. Various technological, economic and social forces are sending us down this road and they are not necessarily malign to either environmental interests or the state of our towns and cities.

There is a balance to be struck: a realignment in planning strategy so as to address pressing economic and social problems is long overdue.

Yours faithfully,
G. E. CHERRY,
Quaker Ridge, 66 Meriden Road,
Hampton-in-Arden,
Solihull, West Midlands.

Meeting of minds

From Lord Glendon

Sir, Your industrial correspondent states (report, September 9) that an historic new era of dialogue between employers and workers is "in prospect" as a result of the TUC's statesmanlike invitation to the director-general of the CBI to address its conference in Blackpool.

I have longed for a situation like this for many years, ever since the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives blazed the trail 30 years ago when it invited me, as minister of works, to speak at its conference.

This came about as a result of the quarterly meetings of a group of both sides of the building materials industry under my chairmanship. The union's delegation was led by its general secretary, Sir Richard Coppock, and we got on very well together.

The invitation was naturally controversial within the union but it went ahead. Nobody walked out (although it is true that very few had walked in).

I believe that this was the first instance of a union asking a Conservative minister to its conference. Now indeed things may be looking up.

Yours faithfully,
GLENDON,
House of Lords,
September 9.

Classic FM

From Mr A. R. Hudson

Sir, In all the eulogies in your feature about the music on Classic FM (Life & Times, September 9) only Brian McMaster, Director of the Edinburgh Festival, mentions that every few minutes the music is interrupted for advertisements.

Mr McMaster thinks that the commercials "are the price we pay", but does he not realise that the consumer pays for both commercial programmes and adverts and every time he goes shopping the cost of the commercial stations is added to the price of goods he buys?

Yours faithfully,
A. R. HUDSON,
65 Brookfield Gardens,
Ryde, Isle of Wight,
September 9.

Light in our darkness

From Sir Charles Mott-Radcliffe

Sir, With the Balkans in chaos, millions threatened with death by starvation in Somalia and Ethiopia and the EC shuffling uncertainly like a nearly blind man on a pedestrian crossing, there is one flicker of light at the end of a dark tunnel.

The Times reported on September 8 that the EC countries have agreed on legal protection for bats which is expected to come into force within the next two years.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES MOTT-RADCLIFFE,
Barnham Hall, Madraske,
Norwich, Norfolk,
September 10.

On the record

From Mr Richard Noble

Sir, Your September 7 issue carries both a report ("Campbell aims for record") and a leading article ("Record addition") on the attempt which Don Wales plans to make on a speed record in an electric car. The following facts may help to put this story in perspective.

1. Up to £2 million is a lot to spend on a "small electric car targeted at achieving a 275mph class record. The American driver, Al Teague, has just reached 410mph with a single-engine, wheel-driven car, funded solely on his limited personal resources. We, the Thrust Team, spent about £1 million over nine years achieving the current world land speed record in 1983.

2. 275mph on salt is considered neither fast nor dangerous these days. Assuming a competently designed and built car, the risk is marginally greater than driving at legal speeds on a motorway.

3. The British media appear to be obsessed with the Campbell name. Interestingly, recent land speed record drivers, Breedlove, Arfons, Teague and myself, were all influenced far more by the outstanding achievements of John Cobb, who was never interested in personal publicity.

Sensibly, Don Wales is out to create his own name and identity. I wish him every success and would like to offer him any help, if ever he needs it.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD NOBLE,
56 Ormond Avenue,
Hampton, Middlesex.

Stuck for a song

From Mr Malcolm Penny

I agree with Mr Michael Howells (letter, August 31) that the British are sadly short of a repertoire when it comes to singing in public (other letters, September 5, 11, 12). However, after many years of singing in pubs with my small country band I can recommend the following titles as those of which people will at least join in the chorus:

"Cockles and mussels". "Come landlady fill the flowing bowl". "Any old iron". "The drunken sailor". "The wild rover" (our most requested number, "Clementine"). "My old man said follow the van". "Daisy, Daisy". "Blow the man down". and "Waltzing Matilda".

They may not be traditional in the strictest sense, but they are songs in English which people feel they know.

To finish the evening, we play "Pack up your troubles". "Show me the way to go home". "Irene, goodnight". "Tipperary". and "Goodnight ladies".

I remain, Sir, your truly,
MALCOLM PENNY
(The Wickham Cellid Band),
The Stables, Dülham, Norfolk.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Education standards

From the Chairman of the

Headmasters' Conference
Sir, What could have been a constructive discussion on GCSE standards (letters and leading article, September 7) has been polarised and exaggerated.

It has been apparent, ever since the examination was introduced, that standards in some areas have fallen (this was already happening to some O levels); that the standards of some examination boards are higher than those of others (as was the case for O levels); and that the gap between GCSE and A level can present problems.

It has been equally apparent that in other areas standards have held up well, that the courses have been demanding and imaginative (both for teachers and for pupils); that the results achieved have been well earned; and that good teaching can continue to ensure a successful transfer to an increasingly wide variety of post-GCSE courses.

Standards always need reviewing. So do systems of examination and

Smoking on trains

From the Vice-Chairman of the

Royal Bank of Scotland
Sir, I am a banker. I am also a fervent cigarette smoker. Faced with the necessity last Saturday to make a journey by rail from Nottingham to Birmingham I therefore took particular pains to reserve a seat in a smoking area of the coach.

After 25 minutes or so we arrived at Derby, to be advised that this train was being withdrawn from service and we should therefore transfer to another, where I found no "smoking seats" were available. The only seats unoccupied being any suggestion that smokers are primarily responsible for the filthy state of our trains.

When we eventually arrived at Birmingham New Street — one hour late on a journey scheduled to take one hour in total — it was to be met by a

Controlling squirrels

From Mr Alan Morris

Sir, Your leading article on squirrels ("Reds versus greys", September 9) seems to owe more to emotion and the promptings of the forestry industry than to informed comment and reason. All squirrels damage trees: reds destroy pines and other conifers, and greys damage deciduous trees. A pair of red squirrels require about five acres of pines to sustain them.

The real problem is one of numbers. Predators such as pine martins and goshawks have been reduced to such low levels that the only real enemy of the squirrel is the fox. Early this century, landowners were advised to introduce greys into their woodlands to replace the "harmful" reds!

On this estate we have never attempted to control squirrel numbers and have found that over the years the population fluctuates wildly. We curse the damage they do to beeches —

assessment. If the launch of the GCSE had been accompanied by less official euphoria, there would be less alarm about the present crisis. No system represents a panacea.

Yours faithfully,
DOMINIC MILROY,
Ampleforth College, York.

From Mr Joe Ruston

Sir, Mr Leivy (letter, September 14) falls into a common logical trap. The general cannot be proved, or disproved, by the particular. My evidence of declining standards in A-level physics (September 7) was not intended to apply to all subjects.

However, in exams in science and mathematics the level of difficulty is generally set by the question rather than, as may be the case in history, by the answer. Consider: "Find a value of x that satisfies the equation $4 = 2 - x$ ". This is a question that can only be answered at one (not very high) level of difficulty.

Yours faithfully,
JOE RUSTON (Director),
Mander Portman Woodward,
24 Elvaston Place, SW7.

volley of announcements that "it is an offence to smoke in New Street station". Squeezed in between these announcements was another brief message telling me that my connecting train to Birmingham airport would be delayed. Time apparently did not permit the announcer to tell us by how long.

I gave up in disgust and took a taxi. As I settled down with my cigarette, the question uppermost in my mind was why, with such rich pickings available, the press finds it necessary to devote so many column inches to the quality of service provided by our banks?

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES WINTER,
Vice-Chairman,
Royal Bank of Scotland,
PO Box 31, 42 St Andrew Square,
Edinburgh,
September 8.

which only seems to occur in hard weather and when numbers are high — but the trees seem to grow anyway.

Two factors seem to control the squirrel population: some sort of virus disease, which breaks out when the population density is high; and particular foxes learning to exploit this abundant food source.

The people who wish to poison grey squirrels usually persecute foxes as well. What we need is a programme to build up the numbers of goshawks to the level found in Germany, where the game preservationists would not like this. They prefer to wipe out the predators in order to maximise the gamebird numbers for shooting, and then poison the resultant booming squirrel numbers.

Yours,
ALAN MORRIS,
Pippingford Park, Nutley, Sussex.

Business letters, page 21

OBITUARIES

QUENTIN BURDICK

Quentin Northrop Burdick, the second-oldest United States senator, died in Fargo, North Dakota, on September 8 aged 84. He was born in Munich, North Dakota, on June 19, 1908.

IF THERE was one thing that Quentin Burdick did better than anything else, and better than almost anyone else in Congress, it was the funneling of federal money towards his home state. In his 32 years as a senator for North Dakota he acquired a reputation among his colleagues for his unabashed pursuit of so-called "pork barrel" projects: federally-funded endeavours which, by definition, had more to do with providing jobs and profits back home than with serving the interests of the American taxpayer.

His critics called him "the King of Pork". Burdick never minded the appellation. "I'll get everything North Dakota



is entitled to," he once said, "now."

Occasionally, however, Burdick over-reached himself; most notably in the case of the Lawrence Welk Museum, for which he persuaded Congress to fork out several million dollars in 1990. In a time of recession and soaring deficits,

the construction of a museum at public expense to mark the birthplace of a popular band-leader struck many people as a glaring example of the excesses of pork-barrel politics. Congress hurriedly withdrew the appropriation last year.

The son of a lawyer who served for ten terms as a Republican in the House of Representatives, Burdick gained his own law degree from the University of Minnesota. He joined his father's firm, and spent the Depression years advising farmers threatened with foreclosure. The experience gained him wide recognition in North Dakota, and formed the basis for his political career. That career, however, was slow in starting. Burdick lost five elections as a Republican, and one more after he switched parties to become a Democrat. It was not until 1959 that he became the first Democrat ever to be sent to Congress by North Dakota.

In the House of Representatives, Burdick quickly built up a voting record rated highly by trade unions and liberal action groups, and capitalised on it in 1960 to win one of the two North Dakota senate seats in a by-election. He never lost it. His continuing popularity with the voters, however, was probably due more to the dollars he pushed in their direction than any great distinction in his political career.

Unusually for a senator with his length of service — only Strom Thurmond of North Carolina and Robert Byrd of West Virginia have longer records — he did not achieve a committee chairmanship until 1986. Then, finding himself named chairman of the Environment and Works Committee, he delegated most of the work and much of his authority to others.

Quentin Burdick was widowed in 1958. He is survived by his second wife, Jocelyn, and by six children.

PROFESSOR JOHN SUTTON

John Sutton, FRS, geologist, died in Weymouth on September 6 aged 73. He was born on July 8, 1919.

JOHN Sutton was among the leading geologists of his generation. To be one of his students was like living on the slopes of a volcano. The soil was fertile, the view awe-inspiring, but one knew that long periods of productive calm could suddenly be punctuated by an eruption.

John Sutton was the eldest child of G. J. Sutton, of Sutton's Seeds, the horticultural company. He went to King's School, Worcester, and from thence to study geology in the Royal College of Science, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London. His academic career was interrupted by six years military service with the RACC and REME before he returned to Imperial College in 1946, where he was to spend the rest of his career. He joined a group of research students under the late Professor H. H. Read who used meticulous geological field mapping to unravel the complex folded and thrust history of the Precambrian rocks of the Scottish Highlands. In 1949 he married another student in this group, Janet Watson, also to become a professor and fellow of the Royal Society. Over the next 25 years until Janet Watson's death she and John Sutton made a formidable team in British and international geological circles. They worked on the Precambrian geology not only of the Scottish Highlands, but of the whole globe. They exemplified the dictum of Sir Henry De La Beche that to be a good geologist all you needed was common sense, good eyesight and a stout pair of legs. At an international geological congress in Spain the subsequent field trip in-



volved crossing a raging torrent. While the rest of the party sat down to remove their boots and socks and roll up their trousers, Sutton and Watson joined hands and walked straight through the river, maintaining the finest traditions of Scottish Highland geology and of the Imperial College geology department.

After completing his PhD John Sutton was appointed lecturer in 1948, reader in 1956 and professor in 1958. During these years he honed

the geology department until it was one of the largest in Europe.

Although he was very much a pure academic, Sutton was always alert to new applications of geology. He foresaw the contribution that geology would make to interpreting satellite imagery, establishing the Imperial College centre for remote sensing. He appreciated the interplay between geology and the environment, founding the Imperial College centre for environmental technology in 1977. With the advent of North Sea oil, John Sutton saw the oil technology group of the college expand and divide into geology and engineering sections.

John Sutton served as dean of the Royal School of Mines, 1965-68 and 1974-77. He was pro-rector of Imperial College from 1979-1983. He was elected fellow of the Royal Society in 1966 and was vice-president from 1975-77. He travelled extensively in the role of geological diplomat, and was particularly successful in establishing contacts with Chinese geologists. Unlike many professional scientists, he was very supportive of enthusiastic amateurs. Thus he served the Geologists' Association in many capacities, including that of president. The Geological Society of London awarded him the Bigsby Medal, jointly with Janet Watson, in 1965, and the Murchison Medal in 1975. Following the death of Janet Watson he married Betty Middleton-Sandford, the designer.

When he retired those who did not know him well expected that he would move to the highlands of Scotland. Horticulture was in his blood, however, and gardening a life long passion. He retired to the soft rolling cretaceous downs of Dorset, there to recreate lovingly a manor house garden. He has no surviving children.

MAJOR-GENERAL C. M. F. DEAKIN

Major-General C. M. F. Deakin, CB, CBE, Commandant of the Joint Services Staff College, Latimer, from 1962 to 1965, died on September 8 aged 81. He was born on December 20, 1910.

THE late stars of "Peter" Deakin's life were his regiment, the Grenadier Guards; sailing, later as a member of the Royal Yacht Squadron and the Household Brigade Yacht Club; and his family — he was married for 50 happy years. Smallish by Guards standards, he will be remembered for his attractive sense of humour, nimble mind and ready wit. An amusing raconteur, he could always say the right thing at the appropriate moment with an instinctive lightness of touch.

He had a distressingly sad start in life. His mother died giving birth to him, and his father, William R. Deakin, rejected him as the cause of his wife's death. He was brought up by his uncle and aunt, Christened Cecil Martin Fothergill, he was nicknamed "Peter" after meeting Beatrix Potter in the Lake District, who saw he was wearing a blue jacket very like Peter Rabbit's. His uncle sent him to Winchester College and Sandhurst, where he narrowly missed winning the Sword of Honour.

Commissioned into the Grenadier Guards in 1931, he was posted initially to the 3rd Battalion, but was transferred to the 2nd Battalion when it was sent out to Egypt during the Abyssinian crisis of 1936-37. In 1938 he was seconded to the Honourable Artillery Company, an officer-producing unit in the Territorial Army, as its chief instructor. For the first three years of the war he was on the general staff of the 66th Infantry, 42nd Armoured and 11th Armoured Divisions in England. He did not see active service until the invasion of Normandy in 1944, when he was second-in-command of the 4th Battalion, equipped with Churchill tanks as part of the 6th Guards Tank Brigade, with whom he fought throughout the North-West European Campaign.

After the war, he was lucky enough to command both the 2nd Battalion in Germany for a short time in 1946; and, after a spell as GSO1 of the 2nd Division, the 1st Battalion, which he took out to Palestine and then Tripoli (1947-50). Three years later he was commanding the 32nd Guards Brigade in the Suez

Canal Zone during the difficult last years (1953-55) of the British withdrawal from Egypt. He was soon back off Port Said, commanding the 29th Infantry Brigade during abortive Suez landings in 1956.

Besides his panache as a commander, he was a thinking soldier and avid reader. It was appropriate that he should be drawn into military policy-making in Whitehall. He became Brigadier General Staff and then Director of Military Training in the War Office, 1957-59; and after a year commanding 50th London Division (TA) he was made Director of the Territorial Army, Cadets and Home Guard, 1960-62. His final appointment in the Army was Commandant of the Joint Services Staff College at Latimer where he was an outstanding success, his deft approach and ready wit softening endemic rivalries, and helping to bring the staffs of the three Services closer together.

Soon after he retired in 1965, he took up the presidency of the large Grenadier Guards Association with branches all over the country. He will be remembered by Grenadier old comrades for



his dynamic leadership during the 15 years of his presidency, and during his subsequent years as vice-patron, the Queen being patron.

He had a brief spell on the staff of Atlantic College, but his main preoccupation in retirement was as a director of the Mental Health Foundation, which he served until 1990.

In 1934 he married Evelyn, daughter of Sir Arthur Grant of Monymusk, Aberdeenshire. They had a son and a daughter. Evelyn died in 1984 just before their golden wedding anniversary. His two children survive him.

HENRY EPHRON

Henry Ephron, Hollywood screenwriter and producer, died at the Motion Picture Hospital in Los Angeles on September 6 aged 80. He was born in New York City on May 26, 1912.

SCREEN-WRITING was a family affair for Henry Ephron. Over three decades all his work was done in collaboration with his wife, Phoebe. After her premature death in 1971 at the age of 57 his career came to a virtual full stop.

The couple met while they were both working as counselors at a summer camp for schoolchildren, shortly after Ephron graduated from Cornell University. They married a few weeks later. At the time Ephron was working as a stage manager in a Broadway theatre, writing in his spare time. At first Phoebe confined herself to making suggestions on her husband's work in progress, but she soon became a full writing partner and gave up the role of housewife. "I don't go in the kitchen very often nowadays," she once told a reporter, "except for ice cubes for a drink."

The Ephrons' first success came in 1943 with the Hollywood production of *Three's a Family*. They broke into Hollywood with the script of *Bride By Mistake* in 1944, and



Astaire and Leslie Caron in *Daddy Long Legs*

moved west to Los Angeles. These were the Hollywood years of glamorous and wholesome looking stars delivering scripts that would never offend a maiden aunt. The Ephrons' optimistic, "feel good" style fitted the mood exactly. Over the next decade they wrote the screenplays for more than a dozen movies whose titles regularly reflected their con-

tent. They ranged from *Always Together to John Loves Mary*, *Look for the Silver Lining*, *On the Riviera*, *Belles on Their Toes* and *There's No Business Like Show Business*.

In 1956, after scripting *Daddy Long Legs* for Fred Astaire, Henry Ephron moved into the production side of the business with *Carousel*, for which he and Phoebe also wrote the screenplay. They followed this success in 1957 with *The Desk Set*, starring Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn, which became their best-known film, and *A Certain Smile*, based on the Sagan novel, in 1958. The couple had another Broadway triumph in 1961 with *Take Her, She's Mine*, though they did not write the screen adaptation of the play. Their last major film project was in 1964, when they received an Oscar nomination for their work on *Captain Newman, M.D.*, with Gregory Peck and Tony Curtis.

After his wife's death Henry Ephron published a memoir entitled *We Thought We Could Do Anything*, chronicling their life together in Hollywood. It was, wrote Mel Gussow in *The New York Times*, "as much a love story as a memoir."

Henry Ephron is survived by four daughters, one of whom is the writer Nora Ephron.

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Henry Ephron is survived by four daughters, one of whom is the writer Nora Ephron.

NATHAN COOK

Nathan E. Cook, the oldest known United States war veteran and last survivor of the Spanish-American War era, has died aged 106.

NATHAN Cook had a love of action and satisfied it in service that spanned America's sea-going campaigns around the world. No-one else had the memories of this century's naval life that Cook did.

He joined the Navy in 1901 as a cabin boy. He was 15 but lied about his age to sign up after spotting a recruiting poster promising an opportunity to "see the world."

He saw action in the Philippine Insurrection, begun by Filipino insurgents unable to gain recognition of their independence from the United States. Spain had ceded the Philippines after losing the Spanish-American War of 1898. The insurgency began in 1899 and was crushed by May 1901.

During his 44-year career, Cook also saw action in the Boxer Rebellion in China, clashes on the US-Mexican border and in both world wars. In the first world war Cook commanded a submarine chaser that sank two German U-boats. He decided to forgo retirement to fight in the second world war, commanding a sea-going tug sta-

tioned at Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and a submarine tender at Panama.

Cook became a celebrity as marking the way, by his service, that the United States developed in the 20th century. In Washington, Edward J. Darvill, Veterans' Affairs secretary, said: "The passing of our nation's oldest war veteran is more than just an historical footnote. Nathan Cook's life spanned a period in which America grew from a nation just emerging on the world scene, to become the greatest power on Earth."

The Veterans Affairs Department said 392,000 men and women served during the 1898-1902 period that included the United States' war with Spain. Cook was one of 62,000 surviving veterans of the second world war with an average age of 91.

When Cook turned 104, President Bush sent him a congratulatory letter and guests watched a video presentation of his life. Cook attributed his longevity to clean living, although he once smoked cigars. His daughter said he did not drink alcohol, however, preferring to keep tea in his flask.

His wife of 76 years, Elizabeth, died in 1982. They had met in New York in 1901 and married in 1905.

Cook is survived by two daughters and a son.

Kim Chung-yul

KIM Chung-yul, a former prime minister and a founding member of the South Korean Air Force, has died aged 75 in a Seoul hospital.

Kim served as prime minister from July 1987 through February 1988 under former President Chun Doo-hwan. He served twice as the air force chief of staff and was defence minister in 1957.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Francois, Duc de la Rochefoucauld, writer, Paris, 1613; John Campbell, 1st Baron Campbell, lord chancellor 1859-61, Cupar, Fife, 1779; James Fenimore Cooper, novelist, Burlington, New Jersey, 1789; Henry Sweet, philologist, London, 1845; William Howard Taft, 23rd president of the USA 1909-13, Cincinnati, 1857; Agatha Christie, novelist, Torquay, 1891.

DEATHS: Albrecht von Wallenstein, soldier and statesman, Herrman, Czechoslovakia, 1583; Sidney Godolphin, 1st Earl of Godolphin, statesman, St Albans, 1712; Isambard Kingdom Brunel, civil engineer, London, 1859; John Speke, explorer, Neston Park, Bath, 1864; Thomas Wolfe, novelist, Baltimore, Maryland, 1938; Anton von Webern, composer, Mittersill, Austria, 1945; Wilhelm Messerschmitt, aircraft designer, 1978.

The first fatal railway accident occurred when William Huskisson, MP, was killed at the opening of the Liverpool-Manchester line, 1830. The cholera plague in England (June-Oct), at its height, 3,183 deaths in London, 1849. Tanks first used in action by British on the Somme, 1916. Battle of Britain Day.

Mite proves match for Highland midge

By KERRY GILL

ONE of the greatest scourges of everyday life in the Scottish Highlands, the small but bloodthirsty midge, may have met its match in the form of an even tinier red mite.

Few visitors to the region will have escaped the attentions of the midge, a member of the *Ceratopogonidae* family, which thrives in the humid months of the late summer and can drive grown men to paroxysms of scratching as it sinks its piercing mouthparts into their flesh.

Once the midge has gorged on blood it will retreat to the warmth of a peat bog. But within the bogs of the West Highlands lies a relatively new predator, a red mite. The mites, according to research carried out on the Isle of Skye, are as voracious as the midges. They sink their mouthparts into the soft abdomen of the midges to get at the blood. Once the midges have been sucked dry they perish.

The cut and thrust at the bottom of the food chain might only be of academic interest but for the fact that people on Skye and the Western Isles have noticed a small

but welcome drop in the swarms of midges this year. Professor Angus Stuart, who has conducted research into the midge's life cycle, said that midges could be found with as many as four red mites clinging to their host. He said that up to 2 per cent of Skye's midges may have succumbed to the mites, first identified in Scotland several years ago.

The mites may have succeeded where other attempts at eradication have failed. It is unclear where they have come from. Samples were sent to the Natural History Museum which, in turn, dispatched the mites to central Africa where a French expert recognised them. A museum spokesman said they were enthusiastic about the practical effects of the mites. It is breeding parasites that attack mosquitoes as part of research into the eradication of malaria.

Dr George Hendry, author of *Midges in Scotland*, believes the days of midge swarms could be numbered although, somewhat perversely, he sees the midge as a protector of the region's beauty.

University news

LONDON QUEEN MARY AND WESTFIELD COLLEGE. Confirmation of title of professor and appointments to chairs.

Mr M.R.B. Clarke (Senior Lecturer in Computer Science, Professor of Computer Science, Dr J.A. Edgington (Reader in Experimental Physics, Professor of Physics, Mr H.S.E. Craville (Reader in Economics, Professor of Economics, Dr P.J. Hennessy (author, journalist and broadcaster), Chair of Contemporary History, Professor R.J. Penny (Professor of Spanish), Chair of Romance Philology; Dr M. Hobson Jeanneret (University Lecturer in French and Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge), Chair of French; Dr J.P.W. Stark (British Aerospace), Chair of Aeronautical Engineering; Dr A.G. Hildrew (Reader in Biological Sciences), Professor of Ecology.

Confirmation of title of reader Dr J.A. Clarke, Reader in Microscopical Anatomy; Dr S. Buller, Reader in Mathematics; Dr S. Watt, Reader in Hispanic Studies; Dr H. Mick Blake, Reader in Medieval Archaeology; Dr R. Whitehouse, Reader in Archaeology.

Promotion to senior lecturer Dr C.P.G. Reid, English; Dr A.J. Crozier, History; Dr K.E. Smith, Biochemistry; Dr R.C. Ralston, Mechanical Engineering; Mr G.R. Sumnerfield, Geography; Dr R. H. Geographical.

Other appointments and elections Professor Ken Young, Vice-Principal; Professor A.D. Oliver, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering; Professor J.K. White, Chairman of the School of Engineering; Professor P.F. Kalmus, Head of the Department of Physics; Dr P.E. Odden, Head of the Department of Geography; Dr Raymond Kuhn, Head of the Department of Political Studies; Professor Brian Naylor, Director of the Centre for Commercial Law Studies.

Finest pipers stand out from the pack

By ANGUS NICOL, PIPING CORRESPONDENT

WITH all the senior competitions comfortably under one roof in the Eden Court Theatre in Inverness, bad weather was no threat to pipers competing at the Northern Meeting. Their chief anxiety was the difference in temperature between the centrally heated tuning room and the cooler auditorium.

The first competition was for the Highland Society of London's Gold Medal. For an event of this calibre the performances were on the whole disappointing, the five prize-winners standing out from the rest. The winner of the Gold Medal, Angus MacColl, played *Togall nam Bò (The MacFarlane's Gathering)*. This is a slight tune in comparison with others played in this event but MacColl's very finished performance made him a worthy winner. Pipe Major Alasdair Gillies took second place.

There was a generally good standard of playing in the Silver Medal competition. But when 26 pipers each have to submit four tunes out of a list of six, two of which are not universally popular, a degree

of repetition results. The medal was won by William Morrison, who played the least known of the tunes, *Dasturam gu Seinnin Pìob (I am proud to play a pipe)*.

The march competitors occupied the rest of the first day. In grade A, the first prize was taken by Michael Cusack. The grade B event was won by Douglas Campbell.

In the evening the march, Strathpey and reel competition for former winners took place. The winner, after a splendid performance, was Pipe Major Alasdair Gillies.

Full results Highland Society of London's Gold Medal, and Scotland Trophy, Douglas Campbell; 2 Stuart Liddell; 3 Alasdair Fletcher; 4 John Don MacKenzie.

Silver Medal, and 5th Highland Volunteer Cup: William Morrison; 2 Stuart Liddell; 3 Donald MacPhee; 4 Iain Speirs.

March A: Addition Watson Cup: Michael Cusack; 2 Iain Hurst; 3 Angus MacColl; 4 Ronald MacShannon. March B: Mrs Macdonald of Craigliche Trophy: Douglas Campbell; 2 Stuart Liddell; 3 Alasdair Fletcher; 4 John Don MacKenzie.

March, Strathpey and Reel, Royal Scottish Pipers' Society Silver Cup: MacKenzie Challenge Cup: P/M Alasdair Gillies; 2 Angus MacColl; 3 William Morrison; 4 William MacCallum.

SEPT 15 ON THIS DAY 1880

By the age of 15, Prince George, later King George V, had found both danger and death on several long voyages while serving in the corvette *Bacchante*. Of 4,000 tons, fully-rigged but with auxiliary engines, she was not regarded by everyone as the most seaworthy of vessels. The prince was not pampered and a shipmate later wrote warmly of his bearing and behaviour in spite of discomfort and food that was often "exceedingly nasty".

THE ROYAL MIDSHIPMEN

Prince Albert Victor and Prince George of Wales left Spithead yesterday afternoon on what promises to be an eventful cruise round the world on board the unarmoured corvette *Bacchante*. Captain Lord Charles Scott. Since the return of the ship from Holyhead, whither she went to take part in the ceremony attending the opening of the dock there by the Prince of Wales, she has undergone a refit by the dockyard authorities at Portsmouth. A few defects in her machinery which prevented her stopping and starting as promptly as was desirable have been remedied, and the gun which was removed from under her forecastle previous to her sailing for the West Indies has been replaced on board, the difference in weight having been adjusted by relieving her of about 16 tons of iron ballast. In this instance the cruise was commenced under as disagreeable auspices as regards the weather as are likely to be experienced during the whole voyage.

The morning broke wet and stormy, the wind blowing almost a gale from the south, and as it seemed highly improbable that the *Bacchante* would move from her anchorage until the weather moderated it was thought that the Prince of Wales, who had

signified his intention of escorting the corvette for some distance down Channel in the Osborne, Commander Lord Charles Bessford, would defer his visit. As neither the naval authorities, however, nor the local railway officials had received intimation of any change of arrangements, the preparations for the reception of his Royal Highness proceeded. The Osborne, which was under the charge of Mr. Harding, the senior pilot, and assistant Queen's harbourmaster, came down from his moorings, and drew up alongside the South railway jetty shortly after 12; and it soon became known that the Royal train was close at hand. The special train containing the Prince of Wales, Princes Albert Victor and George of Wales left the Victoria Station of London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway at 25 minutes past 10. Although the train had to contend against a strong head wind nearly all the way, it arrived in the dockyard at 25 minutes to 1, or only five minutes after the time fixed.

There were waiting on the jetty to receive the Princes Admiral Ryder, Commander-in-Chief, and his flag captain, Captain Seymour; Rear-Admiral Foley, Colonel Smythe, commanding Royal Artillery and Colonel Bray, Assistant Adjutant-General. Up to the moment of the Prince's arrival the rain had continued to fall in torrents, and a heavy sea was tossing in the Solent. Just as the Royal train drew up, however, the clouds began to break up and disperse, and the appearance of a bright blue sky encouraged hopes which were not justified by the sorry experiences of the afternoon.

As the Prince and the young Princes stepped on board the Osborne, the ships in the harbour broke out with masthead flags, and the Duke of Wellington saluted the hoisting of the Royal standard with 21 guns. There being not much baggage to unship, the yacht drew away from the jetty at 11 minutes to 1, proceeded to Spithead, and stood off for the *Bacchante*.

Scientists divided in bomb enquiry

Continued from page 1

quashed the Maguire convictions last year, accepting the possibility there had been innocent contamination after a report by Sir John had been sent to the home secretary.

Last autumn, scientists from the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment, which did the original trial work, said that new evidence was flawed. The scientific committee was set up under Professor Thomas West, an analytical chemist, to take a fresh look.

David Clarke, QC, counsel to the enquiry, reporting on the committee's findings yesterday, said the six scientists included those who thought contamination likely or very likely and those who took a more negative view. However, even the most sceptical members could not absolutely exclude contamination.

Even after the committee's report was completed in August, two scientists representing the Maguires did their own tests to show that contamination could have been caused by contaminated ether in a government laboratory or a police store. Yesterday other members of the committee countered with new evidence to the enquiry.

Scientists for the laboratory said the new work was nothing more than an illustration of the hypothetical possibilities which the committee could not exclude.

Mr Clarke told Sir John May that nothing had emerged to undo Sir John's interim report on the case. Mr Clarke told Sir John that it was unlikely that any conclusions could be drawn on the likelihood of contamination "which will take this debate much further and you may feel that you can do no more than to receive and take note of the opposing views".

He said the work for the enquiry was now shown to be flawed and inconclusive. Tests may have been influenced by cross-contamination between swabs for the hands and fingernail samples. There could also have been contamination in the original tests on the Maguire group because of the instructions given to the police on how swabs were placed over the hands and fingers. Tests now showed the traces could only have been of nitroglycerine.

After the hearing Mrs Maguire said: "We know the Maguire Seven are innocent. At the end of the day our consciences are clear."



Fighting spirit: President Bush and Ronald Reagan greeting supporters in Orange County, California. Mr Bush is expected to portray his challenger Bill Clinton as putting environmental concerns before jobs. Poll model, page 10

Bundesbank rate cut raises few hopes in the markets

Continued from page 1

saying that people had had exaggerated expectations of the likely size of the reduction. It was the first time that the German mark had lowered the cost of borrowing for five years and the direction of German rates was now "firmly downwards", it said.

"There has been a significant change of mood. We are now talking about reductions in rates throughout Europe," an aide said.

At the official Bank of England close in London, the pound was up 2.5 pence against the German mark at DM2.8131 and 4.05 cents down against the dollar at \$1.8937. In lunchtime New York trading, the pound stood at DM2.8127 and \$1.8915. The dollar rate against the German mark rose to DM1.4871 in New York from an opening DM1.4425 in London.

The FT-SE 100 Index closed up 51.2 points at 2422.1, despite anxieties over the French vote on Maastricht. New York shares also rose strongly, in line with the rising dollar.

Jacques Delors, the European Commission president,

in an emotional appeal to French voters, said that the events of the past two weeks had shown that a united Europe could work. "Please don't break that up, because it's fragile," he said.

M Delors welcomed the "gesture" from the Bundesbank, but refused to say whether he believed that the bank would have to cut rates further to arrest the European recession. He called on Germany's EC partners to recognise the new European spirit of the Bundesbank, and to help Bonn to overcome its burgeoning refugee crisis.

He did his best to scotch the theory that the Bundesbank had moved reluctantly. "I don't believe the Bundesbank gave in. It stuck to its rules and statutes."

He said that the EC's current problems showed that, with its present currency hotchpotch, Europe could not take the lead from America in steering the world out of recession. He said that EMU would help the Community to "play the role people expect of it in the world".

The French government, which had hinted on Sunday night that it might follow the

Bundesbank with its own monetary easing, appeared to draw back after seeing the market reaction to the German move. The finance ministry said that any reduction in French interest rates would now depend on a "yes" vote in Sunday's referendum.

In Italy and Germany, there were widespread criticisms of the weekend's financial package. The Association of German Chambers of Commerce attacked the fact that news of the cut had been announced by the Community, not by German officials.

Hans-Peter Stihl, president of the German Chamber of Industry and Trade, said that the organisation would be watching closely how the central bank maintained its independence. He said that he saw no reason for the bank to ease its policies, in view of continuing inflationary pressure in Germany.

Fail analysis, pages 2-3
Peter Riddell and Daisy, page 12
Leading article, page 13
Breaching space, page 17
Stock markets, page 20
Italy's impotence, page 21

Sticking is next in the markets' firing line

Continued from page 1

could fall apart as early as next Sunday, when renewed pressure on the lira and pound will necessitate a second realignment. If France votes "yes", the present parties will survive for a while but the ERM will no longer be seen as a system of permanently fixed exchange rates.

For Britain, this change in perception could have profound economic and political implications. Mr Major will have to find a new miracle cure for the country's economic problems. The link with the mark has lost its long-term credibility.

ERM membership can no longer guarantee stability and low inflation, if devaluations and realignments are once again part of the ERM's trade in trade. Of course, the Treasury will continue to claim, as it said yesterday, that the probability of any realignment involving Britain is "zero". But the markets will recall that all 12 European finance ministers, chaired by Norman Lamont, said precisely the same thing about an Italian realignment only ten days ago.

Finally, Sunday's events have probably transformed

the prospects for European monetary union. A full-scale monetary union could still follow a "yes" vote but the plans for EMU in the Maastricht Treaty may have to be dramatically amended. On one hand, the progress towards EMU will have to be even faster than Maastricht's five-year timetable if whole project is not to be blown off course. On the other, the independent and democratically unaccountable European Central Bank that was planned to be at the heart of EMU is no longer plausible.

The model for the ECB was the Bundesbank but the German bank's clumsy handling of German monetary policy, followed by its humiliating defeat yesterday, is likely to make European politicians and economists think again.

The weekend's events proved that there is no such thing as a politically independent central bank. They also proved something more important: A central bank that was genuinely independent could never be entrusted with economic management in a democratic state. If a truly independent central bank did exist, Europe would have to disinvest it.

Conference sketch

Putting a toe in the water

"Liberalism" cried Robert Macthman, then, excited by his only reference to Mrs de Sencha and the Lib Dems, and voice all a quiver, he said it again. "Liberalism". He moved to the Lib Dems to the front of the room. It would do Mr Macthman no end of good to see his toes soaked, if not easily by force, one toe (the little piggy went to market-style) for each of the Lib letters in liberalism.

Here at Harrogate, disbelief stalks the conference centre. At Brighton in three weeks it will stalk the promenade. At Harrogate, Liberal Democrats shake their heads in disbelief that they did not win. At Brighton, Tories will shake their heads in disbelief that they did. Liberals know that they are a band of saints and are amazed that the country does not see it. Tories know they are a cartload of monkeys and are amazed that the country has not found them out.

Thus failure bruises a Liberal but does not crush him. At Harrogate several thousand indestructibles are picking themselves up and vowing to carry on. Maybe next time? Of course Paddy promised it last time, but is greeted now as parents greet a little boy who said he was running away to America, and got 30 yards. "Well, Paddy, he was America, or didn't it quite work out?" Fondly he is received back into the Liberal bosom.

Speaking of which, minds turn to Nancy Seear, who told us yesterday how the pound might be supported. But how is Lady Seear supported? With the voice of Madame Arati and the bearing of a galleon in a heavy swell, the baronet retains her poise when all we know about centres of gravity insists that she should fall forward on to her face. Yesterday, rocked by the force of her own argument during a powerful passage about protectionism, she let go of the lectern and stepped back. Glimpsed by an internal panic, I dropped my notebook.

Paddy, meanwhile, has a new venture. He is going to try being ordinary in different locations all over Britain, to see how it feels. He is to discover the people. Yesterday morning he decided to be ordinary in a building site for 20 minutes

and discover some construction workers but by some ghastly mischance (Heaven knows how this happened) a press released got out beforehand. It is hard to be ordinary with 20 cameramen following you round but Paddy tried. Wearing a white helmet (the loves helmets) Paddy narrowed his eyes to those familiar statesmanlike slits and peered, rapt, at a lump of reinforced concrete. Nearby, some other ordinary people discussed with me this phenomenon. They were navvies...

"Who's 'ee when 'ee's at 'ome then?"

"Wuntherem SDPs, innit?"

"Big booger, innit? Bigger than on TV like. Woz-vedooiner?"

"Lookin' fer votes, innit, like all the rest o' them?"

Sad, isn't it, to find our countrymen so cynical? After a magnificently shameless pretence that the presence of journalists was a matter of regret to him, Mr Ashdown ceased being ordinary and was driven away in a big Mercedes Benz. Seeing what it is like to be an ordinary German business tycoon.

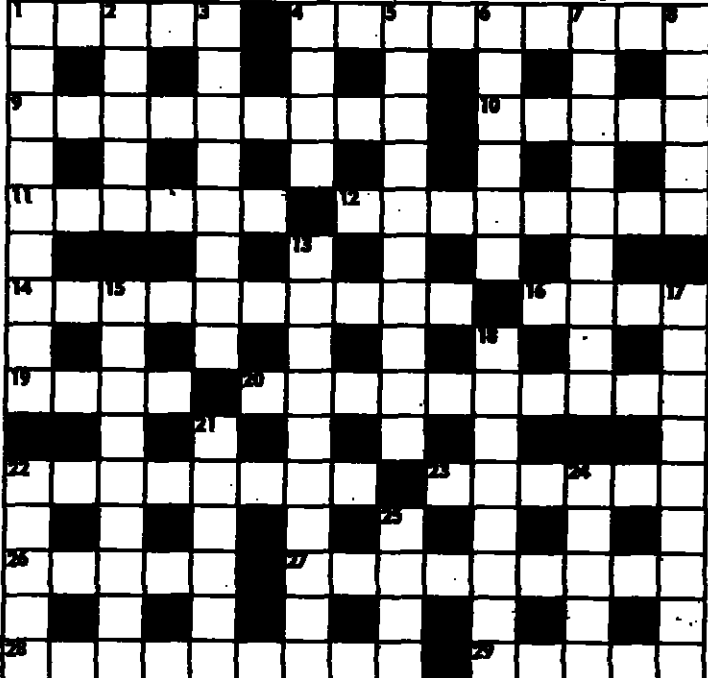
For the rest of the week Mr Ashdown will pretend to be an ordinary politician leading a normal party with a real chance of winning, just like the others. This should test his acting powers to the limit.

He was not the only star, yesterday. It is uncommon for the earth to move after a Lib Dem debate: a solid speech on economics from shadow chancellor Alan Beith caused not so much as a tremor in the value of the Albanian lek. But then, all of a sudden, something happened. David Alton MP resigned. Well, not quite. Mr Alton said he would resign, at the next election, in protest against the pro-abortion stance his party adopted yesterday.

Alton, a convinced Catholic, is truly brave and genuinely devout but in recent years something in his pale, distraught demeanour and the upward cast of his eyes has suggested a yearning toward martyrdom. We see him, perhaps, in stained glass, face heavenward as he is torn limb from limb by militant abortionists. Yesterday the nightmare came a little closer to reality.

MATTHEW PARRIS

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,024



- ACROSS**
- Kind of sheep that provided expensive meal for hunter (5).
 - Trip and block in children's game (9).
 - Appropriate one composer halfheartedly as source of stimulation (9).
 - Race a large number to the women's quarters (5).
 - Brook is close by river (6).
 - Foreign author's second frightful work (8).
 - Appropriate sort of music for lead singer (5,5).
 - Bracket for street lighting (4).
 - One of the old people selected by audition (4).
 - Hit in retreat? Use this to avoid a shot in the dark (10).
 - Musical work in A flat, left out as arranged (8).
 - Food from sea urchin one finishes off (6).
 - Sign office staff don't keep secret (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,023

MEMORIAL TISANE
NOTICEABLE BACK
COURT ACCOUNT
LACERATE
FRESHET STRANGE
CAPITULATIONS
LPHOILLY
LID RATIONALLY
NOR SUDE
BESTOW ATTENDED

- DOWN**
- Venomous creature giving ruler firm support (4,5).
 - Artist's tale reflected in section of poem (9).
 - Beast seeds (5).
 - Following the book, knowing the legal position (9).
 - Locked up with five different keys (5).
 - Reveals, around radioactive core, such emissions? (4,4).
 - Suceeded in putting out everything, we hear (4).
 - Carriage in place to drive off about one (4,6).
 - Heroic revolutionary who hasn't been left alone? (2,4).
 - Sensational obsession about royal misfortune (9).
 - Author completed diamond negotiation (5).
 - Source of income that can pay for one's fare (4,6).
 - This island in Southern ocean's rocky (9).
 - Cat reportedly on watch for bird (9).
 - Flier in jet with explosive device underneath (8).
 - Gift for fairytale character (6).
 - Money that's not quite enough for novelist or composer (5).
 - Girl married gardener's son (5).
 - Turned no odd characters away - reverse, in fact (4).

The Fifteenth Book of The Times Crosswords published by Times Books, 77-85, Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8JH, is now on sale at bookshops, price £3.50

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

- CROTELS**
- Bread dumplings for soup
 - Academy members
 - Have's droppings
- IRIDAL**
- Laughing
 - Place a rainbow
 - Purposely leading water through
- BATHYSIDERODROMOPHOBIA**
- Sea-going
 - Fear of undergrowth
 - Aversion to having a bath
- PETROUS**
- Stony
 - Terrestrial
 - Telling lies

Answers on page 14

AA ROADWORK

For the latest AA traffic and roadwork information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE	731
Norfolk (within N & S Circles)	731
M1/M25/M25/M25	733
M1/M25/M25/M25	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National	737
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Angles	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.57
Austria Sch	20.80
Belgium Fr	80.80
Canada \$	2.42
Denmark Kr	11.41
Finland Mk	9.47
France Fr	9.47
Germany DM	2.54
Green Dr	368.00
Hong Kong \$	15.25
India Ru	1.05
Italy Lira	200.00
Japan Yen	253.75
Netherlands Gld	3.25
Norway Kr	11.85
Portugal Esc	200.00
South Africa Rd	6.10
Spain Ps	166.75
Sweden Kr	10.83
Switzerland Fr	2.50
Turkey Lira	1400.00
USA \$	1.96
Yugoslavia Dnr	0.05

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers cheques.

Concise Crossword, page 9
Life & Times section

England and Wales will be rather cloudy, with rain or drizzle near western coasts. Eastern and central England will have a few bright or sunny intervals and will feel warm. Northern Ireland and Scotland will be mostly cloudy and breezy with occasional rain, mainly in the west. Outlook: rain over central and northern parts will spread southeast, followed by sunny intervals.

Alto	C	F	M	C	F	M
Abertawe	20	24	28	20	24	28
Abertawe	20	24	28	20	24	28
Abertawe	20	24	28	20	24	28
Abertawe	20	24	28	20	24	28
Abertawe	20	24	28	20	24	28
Abertawe	20	24	28	20	24	28
Abertawe	20	24	28	20	24	28
Abertawe	20	24	28	20	24	28
Abertawe	20	24	28	20	24	28
Abertawe	20	24	28	20	24	28

* denotes figures are latest available.

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
East of London	702
West of London	703
North London	704
South London	705
West Midlands	706
East Midlands	707
North Midlands	708
South Midlands	709
West Yorkshire	710
East Yorkshire	711
North Yorkshire	712
South Yorkshire	713
West Yorkshire	714
East Yorkshire	715
North Yorkshire	716
South Yorkshire	717
West Yorkshire	718
East Yorkshire	719
North Yorkshire	720
South Yorkshire	721
West Yorkshire	722
East Yorkshire	723
North Yorkshire	724
South Yorkshire	725
West Yorkshire	726
East Yorkshire	727
North Yorkshire	728
South Yorkshire	729
West Yorkshire	730

Weatherwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

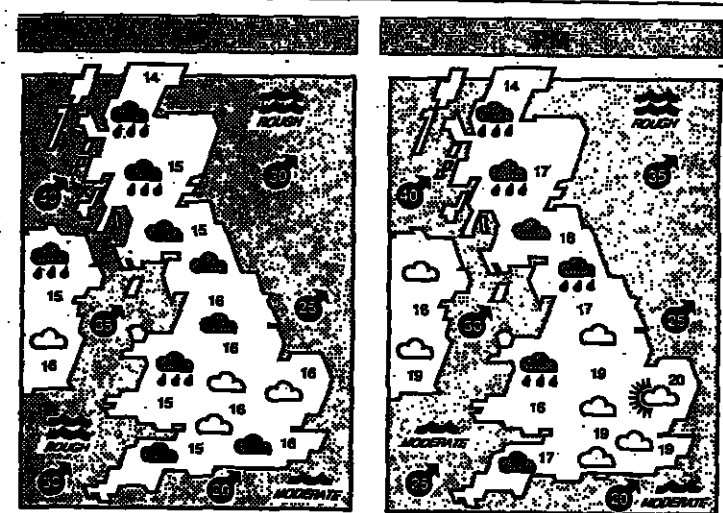
Abertawe	C	F	M	C	F	M
Abertawe	20	24	28	20	24	28
Abertawe	20	24	28	20	24	28
Abertawe	20	24	28	20	24	28
Abertawe	20	24	28	20	24	28
Abertawe	20	24	28	20	24	28
Abertawe	20	24	28	20	24	28
Abertawe	20	24	28	20	24	28
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Greater London	701
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South Yorkshire	721
West Yorkshire	722
East Yorkshire	723
North Yorkshire	724
South Yorkshire	725
West Yorkshire	726
East Yorkshire	727
North Yorkshire	728
South Yorkshire	729
West Yorkshire	730

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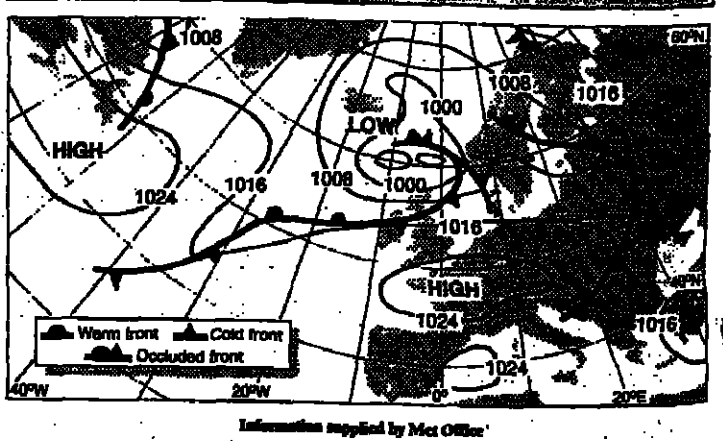
London	7.15 pm to 8.37 am
Edinburgh	7.34 pm to 8.47 am
Manchester	7.54 pm to 8.44 am
Pennance	7.55 pm to 7.00 am

Sun sets	6.56 am
Moon sets	10.27 am
Sun sets	7.15 pm
Moon sets	7.57 pm

Last quarter September 19

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4.25	7.0	4.34	7.0	Liverpool	1.34	9.3	1.48	9.0
Abertawe	3.22	4.2	4.04	4.0	Southport	12.01	2.3	11.58	2.1
Avonmouth	9.44	12.8	10.01	12.7	Margate	2.26	4.8	2.30	4.7
Belfast	1.17	3.4	1.26	3.4	Millfield Haven	8.42	0.7	8.59	0.7
Cardiff	9.29	11.8	9.46	11.7	Newbury	7.32	7.2	7.50	6.8
Doncaster	8.34	5.2	8.34	5.2	Oban	9.02	3.6	8.24	3.9
Exeter	1.14	3.4	1.26	3.4	Pennance	7.55	5.3	7.36	6.8
Falmouth	7.54	5.0	8.04	5.0	Portsmouth	6.30	2.1	6.46	2.1
Glasgow	3.51	4.3	3.55	4.3	Southampton	1.39	4.0	1.47	4.0
Harwich	12.34	5.5	12.51	5.3	Stoke Newington	1.27	6.9	1.45	6.0
Hull	1.48	7.4	1.59	7.1	Swansea	1.37	4.4	1.29	4.0
King's Lynn	8.27	6.9	8.44	6.9	Widnes	8.46	8.2	8.00	8.1
Leith	8.56	8.8	9.19	8.2	Widnes	5.59	5.3	6.22	5.0
	4.50	8.4	4.58	8.1		2.18	4.2	2.23	4.2

Tide in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.



Information supplied by Met Office

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LIFE & TIMES

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15 1992

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In an extract from his new book, Neil Lyndon attacks the 'myth' about domestic violence

Who gives a damn about the battered man?

Violence is second nature to man. The assumption underpins all feminist argument and is used, to powerful effect, to denigrate fatherhood and to sanctify the purity of another love.

So completely has the public absorbed the battered-woman image that it has become genuinely difficult to set out the facts. For instance, how many cases of domestic violence are reported to the police? The Metropolitan police reckon that they respond to "about 25,000 calls a year, an extrapolation for London as a whole drawn from research in specific areas".

Dr Susan S. M. Edwards has studied the records of station messages received over six months at two divisional police stations, Hounslow and Holloway. From this she asserts that: "The number of women who officially reported violence to the police in the Metropolitan police district alone in one year was estimated at 58,000."

How did she get that number? It looks as if Dr Edwards has simply taken the results of her research in those two police divisions and multiplied them by the number of divisions in the Metropolitan police district as a whole. If I am right, the extrapolation is worthless.

Think about it: are Hounslow and Holloway to be equated with Highgate, Finchley, Dulwich, Greenwich and Chiswick? Even if we assume that Dr Edwards has got it right in Holloway and Hounslow, it would be simply preposterous if she had adduced from those specific figures a general picture of the incidence of domestic violence in Greater London. She would be making out that differences in income, employment, housing, racial tension and family structure make no difference to the frequency with which men and women living together get into violent rows.

Doubtful as her research method appears to have been, it has been endorsed by official bodies including the police. Quoting Dr Edwards, the Police Monitoring and Research Group declares that over two years, London police stations received between two and two-and-a-half calls a day relating to domestic incidents. This would average out at more than 1,000 calls a week to the whole Metropolitan police district.

Thus a suspect figure emerging from an undisclosed statistical method has been officially received. We are about to receive another doubling, another magnification by 100 per cent. In 1990, *The Independent* published a column of mine in which I questioned a policy newly inaugurated by John Patten, then minister of state at the Home Office, promising to "crack down" on violent men in the home. I suggested that the Home Office's

figures had been bent to supply a false picture of domestic violence. My article drew an angry reply from Sandra Horley, the director of the Chiswick Family Refuge, who asserted that "abuse of women is a huge issue". She said: "The Metropolitan police receive approximately 100,000 calls a year from women who are trying to escape male violence."

Ms Horley's figure was subsequently taken up by Rosalind Miles, another writer on feminism. Dr Miles has given it as a fact that in the London area alone, more than 100,000 women a year need hospital treatment after violence in the home. How can it possibly be true? If the population of the London area is, say, five million, then 2.5 million are female. Of those 2.5 million, about 750,000 will be in the age range 20 to 40, in which violent domestic altercations almost entirely occur. So, if 100,000 women a year require

that you might be in for a lifetime of misunderstanding and hostility.

Each of these unseemly and shocking incidents could be called a fight. The women were, beyond question, doing their utmost to hurt me. I can say, with absolute truthfulness, that I did not use more than a fraction of my strength or my power to injure; and, in two of the four scenes, I was using my strength to diminish injury. No medical treatment was required for any of the trivial injuries sustained by either combatant.

On each occasion, however, the woman acted as if her violence did not count, as if the injuries and pains she had inflicted did not exist. I was made out to be the sole aggressor.

I want to suggest that a broader and more general picture of domestic violence may be drawn from these accounts. Where rows between men and women lead to fights, the violence is often two-way. Drink is often to be found in the picture. Injuries caused are very often slight and accidental.

If you visit a hospital on a Friday night, you will see men as well as women being brought in for treatment following domestic fights. The women may outnumber the men by, say, three to one, but the men's injuries tend to be more gruesome. Women's injuries are often the result of bare-handed blows from their men, so their faces and bodies get bruised, noses broken, ribs cracked or internal organs ruptured. Men's injuries commonly result from the use of some weapon: they are stabbed, slashed, scalded and whacked with every domestic implement which comes to hand, from the carving knife to the cast-iron saucepan and its boiling contents.

When Mr Patten launched his crackdown against violent men at home, he reminded the public that 44 per cent of all women who are murdered are killed by their husbands or the man they are living with. This sounds like an unspeakably hideous fact if you give it only glancing attention. But there is another way of looking at it.

How many females would you guess are murdered in a year? The answer in 1987 is 147 (it was an average year). For women between the ages 16 to 40, the figure — precisely 44 per cent of the total — is 65.

Sixty-five women were murdered by their husbands or lovers. Does that number strike you as being so alarming that it should call for a revolution in the way that police



deal with domestic violence", as Mr Patten described his initiative?

If you run your eye over the mortality statistics you will see that 216 females died in 1987 from choking on their food. Three hundred and five died from falling on the stairs. One hundred and twenty-four died of "excessive cold". If you keep on looking, you will see that, in the same year, 1,435 women were killed in road traffic accidents and 20,000 women died from respiratory ailments connected with smoking.

Now I ask you: in the context of those figures, do you feel that an appropriate sense of judicious balance is being brought to bear on the 65 women who were murdered by their men? If you answer "yes, most certainly: their fate is the ghastly proof that men brutalise women", then you must answer a further question: why does nobody give a damn about the men who are

murdered by their wives or lovers? About nine per cent of all murders of males in any year are committed by their spouses. That makes about 20 murders of men in England and Wales. The number, like the number of women murdered, is reassuringly small; but if you want to say that the murder of women by their men exemplifies some kind of grand political scheme, then you have to admit that the deaths of those men complicate the picture.

The killer blow with which the sisters and their followers try to extinguish argument on domestic violence is to say that every woman's refuge in this country is filled to overflowing. So how many women would you guess are being housed in refuges throughout the country at any one time? Thousands? Tens of thousands?

I got the answer from the National Women's Aid Federation. It says there are "approximately" 1,280 places of sanctuary for women and their children in England. Two-thirds of those 1,280 might be children. Let's say that half the number is made up of

children and the other half of the women who are desperate to get away from violent men. That would leave 640 women.

How can it have happened that a social phenomenon which results in 640 women and their children seeking refuge and care should have commanded massive, highly emotional and accusatory coverage? What the hell has happened to us as a generation, a nation, a people that the plight of 640 women should be treated with so very much more sympathy and political energy than, say, the million or more people who have no home?

● No More Sex War by Neil Lyndon is published on September 28 by Sinclair Stevenson at £15.95 (£13.95 at the feminist debate).

TOMORROW

The sceptical feminist: Nigella Lawson replies to Neil Lyndon

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Men do not always get their own way, as court decrees on custody show

Fathers targeted in the battle of the sexes

More than 25% of all live births are to unmarried women. An incalculable number of those women will subsequently marry the fathers of the children; but millions do not. We cannot guess how many of the women who choose not to marry are directly influenced by the cardinal axioms of the sisterhood. But it seems fair to imagine that a loud and fashionable establishment which declares that it is more than all right for a girl to go it alone must have some influence on the attitudes of those women. Do they ever stop to think what they are doing to men?

Unmarried fathers have no undisputed rights of paternity. They might not even register the birth of their baby. The mother might, with unchallengeable legal authority, refuse the father any right to see or to be with his child and remove the children to another place, even to another country, without his consent. The 1991 Children Act is intended to afford to unmarried fathers the right to acquire parental responsibility on the same terms as married fathers; but we cannot, at present, guess how it will work in practice.

Nothing in my adult life has been more painful than to witness the devastations in the lives of some of my young men friends from that renunciation of formal contract in

their relationships with the women who bore their children. Though they bear a share of responsibility for their circumstances, those men have suffered an offence which ought to be criminal. It ought not to be allowable in law for any parent, married or not, to remove a child from another parent without consent. This is such an obvious human right that it is astounding to find that it has been unasserted and unprotected, that unmarried men have been simply powerless to resist if the mother of their children takes a fancy to remove them. Those men have had, it goes without saying, no such power themselves. Any man who swipes his child and denies the mother rights of access is likely to find his mug on the front-pages of the gutter rags. It should be so: kidnapping children is a crime of such terrible power that it should be discouraged by all means; but that boot should be made to fit both feet of a parental union, marital or not, broken or intact.

The elimination of the father has always been an essential purpose of the sisterhood. The assaults they have mounted upon marriage and the "bourgeois" family may be seen as strategic plays, clothed in ideological humbug and mumbo-jumbo, which were intended to vitiate men's rights of paternity and to transfer all parental rights to women.

'Men who wish to have more time with their babies are given no encouragement, no honour, no power, and no time'

According to the sentimental maxims of the feminists, the family has been described as the prime theatre of sex war, in which the woman who conceives and bears her baby to term has been described as a class traitor. In which the woman who marries the father of her child and thus confers some legal rights of paternity upon him has been regarded as making an alliance of servitude with the oppressor.

It should be counted among the more signal inequities of our age that men who wish to have more time with their babies are given no encouragement, no honour, no power, and no time. All men are

confined by the general presumption and prejudice, fostered and confirmed by a powerful strand of modern feminism, that they are, at best, reluctant parents.

If you think that men automatically get their own way in all conditions and circumstances of family and professional life in our society, you have to ask yourself why it should be that they so infrequently get what they ask for in the divorce courts of our land.

Look at those courts. See what the law assigns to fathers who wish to keep a close connection with their children to have an active share in their care and upbringing. Those men may, if they are lucky, be granted what the courts are pleased to deem "substantial" access.

The granting of "substantial access" may mean that the father will be allowed to have his children stay with him for two Saturday nights a month. He may be given the right to meet the children from school one afternoon a week and give them their supper. And he may be allowed to have the children stay with him for a week during each of the Christmas and Easter holidays and a fortnight in the summer.

Those arrangements, determined by the courts, give a picture of our collective view of fathers and their importance. Fathers' rights are not merely secondary: they are

peripheral, marginal, decorative. Men as fathers are held to be emotional accessories to the main business of child-care which is seen, by feminists and judges alike, as being the essential concern of womankind.

This cast of mind towards the divisions of child-care between mothers and fathers cannot survive. It is not only inequitable: it is also impractical, impolitic and damaging. In an age when women are required to be at work in the same numbers as men — which must be counted an irreversible change — it must rebound to the professional disadvantage of women if they are expected to be chiefly responsible for children; and it must be counted an intolerable injustice that men are not allowed to be equally active partners in parenthood.

The rights of men to leave from work when a baby is born may be expected to be ratified in statute soon. Britain remains one of the only countries in the developed world where men still have no rights of paternity leave; but it can't last. The laws of the EC will require adjustments to be made in the UK. My own view is that rights of parental leave must be absolutely equal for men and women.

● Neil Lyndon's *Mid Life* column has been held over.

COMPETITION RULES 1. The competition is open to all UK residents over 18 other than employees of The Drambuie Liqueur Company Ltd, their agents or anyone connected with the competition. 2. The prize will be awarded to the most apt and original entry, upon which the judges' decision is final. 3. The winner will be notified by post by 31st October 1992. 4. There will be no cash alternative to the prize which will consist of return flights, accommodation for 2 nights in Venice and travel insurance. The prize must be taken on 22nd and 23rd February 1993. 5. Full rules are available to entrants enclosing a SAE to the competition address.

HAMLET: For one month, Alan Rickman and a splendid cast in the Danish play, *Oedipus*, opens tonight, 7pm, then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm.

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TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kari Knight

NASH ENSEMBLE: The chamber music group plays music by Debussy, Ravel, and others. *Nash Ensemble*, 11th End, London NW3 017-734 0022, tonight, 7.30pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, then Sun, 3.30pm.

ACADEMY OF ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS: Sir Neville Martin conducts a concert of music by Bach and Beethoven. *Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields*, 11th End, London NW3 017-734 0022, tonight, 7.30pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, then Sun, 3.30pm.

ROMEO AND JULIET: The Scottish Ballet offers its contribution to the city's celebration of Romeo and Juliet. *Romeo and Juliet*, 11th End, London NW3 017-734 0022, tonight, 7.30pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, then Sun, 3.30pm.

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MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING: After his rope-wrangling *Midwinter Night's Dream* for LPT, Alan Rickman director, Alan Rickman, directs his own play, *Much ADO About Nothing*, opens tonight, 7pm, then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm.

CONTRASTS: Pianist Andras Schiff directs an outstanding lineup of woodwind players in Kurtág's *Wind Quintet*, Op. 2 and movements from *Violator*, for piano and wind. Schiff and his ensemble, works by Bach and Beethoven, and the London premiere of Carter's *Inner Song* for solo voice and piano. Contrasts on Sept 16 and 19, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 017-928 8800, 7.30pm.

LADY BE GOOD: Open Air's production of the first Broadway musical to be filmed, *Lady Be Good*, opens tonight, 7.45pm, then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm.

WIT'S END: Although set in Russia, and analysed in depth by Standish, Gosholt's 1824 satire on high society only now receives its British premiere. *Wit's End*, 27th End, London NW3 017-734 0022, tonight, 7.30pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, then Sun, 3.30pm.

ANGELS IN AMERICA: Thrilling performance in Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, opens tonight, 7.30pm, then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, then Sun, 3.30pm.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Anel Dorfman's scorching psychological drama on the longing for revenge. *Death and the Maiden*, 11th End, London NW3 017-734 0022, tonight, 7.30pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, then Sun, 3.30pm.

THE DYBBUK: Kane Mitchell's thrillingly convincing *Hasidic* community where the supernatural presses in on all sides. *The Dybbuk*, 11th End, London NW3 017-734 0022, tonight, 7.30pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, then Sun, 3.30pm.

FROM A JACK TO A KING: Witny and stylish version of *Macbeth* is back to the top, set in the world of rock and roll. *From a Jack to a King*, 11th End, London NW3 017-734 0022, tonight, 7.30pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, then Sun, 3.30pm.

GAMBLERS: Oleg Menchikov, Mark Rylands, Phil Daniels in superbly staged production of *Gamblers*, opens tonight, 7.30pm, then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, then Sun, 3.30pm.

GRAND HOTEL: Musical barbers sing. Berlin in the *Grand Hotel*, opens tonight, 7.30pm, then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, then Sun, 3.30pm.

HECUBA: Trojan women struggle from grief to revenge. *Hecuba*, 11th End, London NW3 017-734 0022, tonight, 7.30pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, then Sun, 3.30pm.

THE INVISIBLE MAN: A revival of last year's much-praised, now a West End hit. *The Invisible Man*, 11th End, London NW3 017-734 0022, tonight, 7.30pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, then Sun, 3.30pm.

NEW RELEASES: LES AMANTS DU PONT NEUF (118): Les Amants du Pont Neuf, a punk band's love for a young artist (and blind, in spirit, and a real love movie). Denis Lavant, Juliette Binoche. Lumière 017-336 0611.

BOB ROBERTS (115): Lively comedy about a right-wing lobbyist's fight to get a seat in the US Senate. Entertaining directorial debut by John Dahl. *Bob Roberts*, 11th End, London NW3 017-734 0022, tonight, 7.30pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, then Sun, 3.30pm.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS - THE DISCOVERY (PG): Pre-up narrator (George Clooney) discovers the New World. *Christopher Columbus - The Discovery*, 11th End, London NW3 017-734 0022, tonight, 7.30pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, then Sun, 3.30pm.

DONOR: Mexican telephone operator searches for her lost dancing partner. *Donor*, 11th End, London NW3 017-734 0022, tonight, 7.30pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, then Sun, 3.30pm.

HOUSEHOLD: PG. Golden Hawk movie into a comedy. *Household*, 11th End, London NW3 017-734 0022, tonight, 7.30pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, then Sun, 3.30pm.

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Oedipus leads uneven trilogy

The Thebans Barbican

THE stylistic problem facing a director who seeks to unify the three plays devoted to the family of Oedipus is that Sophocles wrote them over a period of half a century. *Antigone's defiance* of Creon, chronologically last in the story, was written first, followed 12 years later by the drama of her father's fall. And when Sophocles was 90 he defied it, it is said, his own rebellious sons and wrote of the aged Oedipus's perception by his sons before he found his noble death in the grove at Colonus.

John Shrapnell's Creon grows consistently along the line of plays, from an injured member of the royal family through thuggery in time of war to the final stubborn despot. But Oedipus changes from the guilty victim of *Oedipus Tyrannos* to an innocent who happens to have fathered, for reasons unexplored, odious sons; and in the play centring upon Antigone, she unexpectedly shows herself the nurtured of her brother that for his sake she relishes a premature death.

The plays are set in Thebes. Colonus and Thebes, and Adrian Noble's Royal Shakespeare Company production develops the rhythm in this progression by covering the Theban stage with smoking tarmac (the earth, presumably, in revolt) where Colonus, close to a safe and peaceful Athens, is given a strong and central role. The Elders of Thebes wear key-patterned robes and bristling whisks — in silhouette very like figures on Greek vases — while their Athenian counterparts sport bulging half-masks and swollen skirts.

Despite their quaint resemblance to a tribe of Sydney Greens dressed in crinolines, this Chorus brings a

cohesion to the Colonus play that I did not find in the surrounding pair. The designer Uliz gives it a mainly oriental look, though it does not extend to the costumes of Philip Voss, in sonorous voice and a blue suit. But Gerard Murphy's Oedipus is clay-smudged and grey, like a Chinese ceramic figure, and Joanne Pearce's Antigone enters crouched on his shoulder like some ivory goblin.

To Ilona Sekacz's loud percussion, played from two bamboo cradles suspended either side of the stage, the Chorus sing, dance, stamp and process in a manner carefully distinguished for each lyric outburst, though the sheer number of steps in the course of the five hours 55 minutes — watching the stage does become tiring as the evening advances towards its close. What is admirable is the involvement of Oedipus himself in one of the dances, leading the Chorus yet one with it, in a mood of reckless joy I have never before seen presented like this.

Murphy's powerfully spoken Oedipus is an autocrat of iconic grandeur whose movements in his first scenes suggest a breathing, gilded statue. Though he wears no mask his stiff face is mask-like, snapping his mouth tight after speaking. When later in the first play after one of the rare lines of comedy, the trap begins to close. Linda Marlowe's Jocasta freezes and Murphy's huge eyes glitter, soon to be caked in bright scarlet.

The trouble is that his terrors are never properly defined. When, 50 minutes into the play, Oedipus is still putting new neuroses out of the hat — like wanting to leap upon the American foster-sister from his wartime host family — the prospect seems, unhappily, limitless; and sure enough, he is facing the fact that he wanted his father dead, though nobody actually mentions Oedipus. Worse, the writer feels torn between his natural and his American mothers.

The play is more intriguing on the subject of generic guilt. "I feel responsible for the death of the Jews in the gas chambers," he wails. Most fascinating of all is the genesis of his later plays: the guilt that inspired *The Beautiful Part of Myself*, the telephonic relationship with a similarly handicapped American actress that inspired *Separation*.

Madeline Wynn's production in this Earls Court venue — short scenes between patient and doctor — avoids self-pity. Castle has the author's self-mockery and ability to deflate the pretensions. He sulks at personal slights, flies into petulant rages, shows cunning as well as vulnerability. Ronald Wood is a scrupulously understated foil, a doctor who sounds appropriately sage but never sentimental; beautifully balanced in a tricky role. The play may portray self-indulgence, but avoids it.

MARTIN HOYLE

When the Past is Still to Come Finborough Theatre

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Pied Piper hands over his pipe

Richard Morrison
reports on a huge
educational project
just begun by 16
British orchestras

On Thursday, when the London Philharmonic takes the platform for the first time as the Festival Hall's resident orchestra, you will probably hear a lot of portentous flannery about "the dawn of a new era in British orchestral life". If this is a dawn, it has been preceded by some very dark hours. A two-year squabble, as the South Bank struggled to appoint one orchestra while keeping the others sweet, has certainly cast doubt on the thesis that music is the food of love. The only winners so far are the lawyers.

Perhaps the South Bank Centre's dreams will come true. The LPO's playing might improve so much that all the ranks of music critics can scarce forbear to cheer. London's concert-goers might suddenly discover their courage, and crowd into not the numbingly familiar parade of Brahms and Mahler, but nights of scintillating adventure. The London Symphony Orchestra, sitting pretty at the Barbican on a cushion of massive City of London Corporation subsidy, may be given proper competition. London's musical life might become as exciting as Berlin's, or at least Birmingham's.

Unfortunately it will be months before the public notices real differences. The repertoire for this season is about as unexpected as egg and chips in a greasy spoon. Orchestral life desperately needs renewal, but do not look to the South Bank on Thursday for the revolution.

Look, rather, at an astonishing project which starts next January. It has hardly been publicised, yet upon its success (and that of follow-ups) rests the very survival of palaces of culture like the Festival Hall.

This is a revolution that has united 16 of Britain's orchestras — fiercely competitive beasts, all of them — on one mission. It involves 40,000 primary-school children, thousands of teachers, and the Orkney-based composer Sir Peter Maxwell Davies — whose *Orkney Wedding with Sunrise* proved to be the unexpected hit of the Last Night of the Proms. The project has a £300,000 budget, and the funding of that, too, has brought together a rare alliance: subsidy from all four Arts Councils, a grant from the



Primary school children making music: Sir Peter Maxwell Davies will be allowing them to determine many aspects of his new piece, *The Turn of the Tide*

Foundation for Sport and the Arts, and sponsorship from Shell UK. Everything revolves around a new Maxwell Davies piece, commissioned by the Association of British Orchestras. The piece is called *The Turn of the Tide*, a clever title for a work that encourages children to take better care of the environment than their parents have done.

This is unconventional music. Built into it are points where the composer renounces control to the children, whose compositions (based upon five simple themes devised by Maxwell Davies) are integrated into the final performance. Nor will the professional musicians prepare this premiere conventionally. Many will have "adopted" a school, working with teachers to help the children develop the themes. The beauty of the project is that the musical process — getting children to rework pre-existing ideas, showing how new can be created out of old, and how undisciplined "industry" can still natural creativity — perfectly mirrors the environmental theme.

Finally, *The Turn of the Tide* will be performed in 25 concerts across the country. Large numbers of children will be mingled with the orchestras, playing their part alongside the professionals. The orchestras range from big ensembles such as the LSO, the City of Birmingham and the Hallé, to chamber groups.

Some have long pioneered music education. The Scottish Chamber Orchestra, for instance, runs annual schools' projects in Strathclyde, also involving Maxwell Davies. To some extent, this *Turn of the Tide* project is the "Strathclyde Concertos" scheme writ large. But five orchestras are venturing into music education for the first time. "A great deal of orchestras' work in the future will be outreach: making people aware of what orchestras do and can do," says Maxwell Davies. "It is, in effect, the democratisation of classical music."

That is the crucial reason why

orchestras are doing this: a feeling that their own survival depends on it. And they only need look across the Atlantic for motivation. In one American city after another, orchestras have gone into steep decline because they neglected to widen the base of their support. Instead, they relied complacently on patronage

to abandon it last season when facing financial crisis. Now they and others are trapped in a vicious circle. They cannot afford to woo new, young audiences, yet they cannot afford not to.

For British orchestras the threat is perhaps less urgent. We still teach music in schools. But the reason why many orchestral managements lined up against the government

last year, in the argument over the national music curriculum, was a fear that if music was presented to children as a dusty academic discipline, rather than as one of the most exuberant activities known to humanity, the music profession would become as alienated from the rising generation here as in America.

So the *Turn of the Tide* project has been devised to tie in with the national curriculum, and also — in its choral finale — to revive classroom singing. By doing so, it sends a message to the government: "Look

what we orchestras can do to lift musical creativity in schools, and imagine how much else could be done with the right incentive."

Of course, sceptics will voice objections. They will argue that some orchestras only do educational work because it is a condition of their public funding; that Shell UK's sponsorship of a conservation-based children's project is blatant image-massaging; and that even a project involving 40,000 children brings only a small minority of the country's school pupils into contact with professional music-making.

Some of this may be justified. *The Turn of the Tide* may also turn out to be the dullest thing to come out of Orkney since the discovery of peat. I hope not. The whole precarious music-business edifice — concert halls, record companies, radio stations, orchestras, composers, even the much vaunted residencies — will crash down if it is not built on a solid foundation of widespread musical appreciation. Nurturing that appreciation in nine-year-olds must be a good first step.

'On the success of such projects rests the very survival of palaces of culture like the Festival Hall'

from the white middle classes. The ethnic minorities sensed that symphony halls were not their "territory", and stayed away. To make matters worse, American schools hardly recognise music's existence.

Too late, American orchestras have woken up to impending disaster. The Los Angeles Philharmonic inaugurated an ambitious outreach scheme two years ago, only

Galleries: John Russell Taylor finds Norwich Castle Museum and the town crowded with quintessentially English faces, both past and present

Historical survey that's full of phiz

Given that we are now living in a multi-cultural society, few things are more surprising than the continuity of the English face. The streets around Norwich Castle are teeming with faces that might have stepped straight out of the Castle Museum's resplendent show of Norfolk Portraits. Indeed, one need not go so far: one of the gallery assistants, applying the last few dabs of paint at the private view, proved to be the spitting image of Dawson Turner, nearly two centuries earlier in Thomas Phillips's affectionate portrait of *The Turner Family*. This show is about two things: the Norfolk face and Norfolk taste. The title of the accompanying book says it all: *Family and Friends — A Regional Survey of British Portraiture*. As a region of Britain, Norfolk is exceptional in two things: its reasonable proximity to London and the degree of distance that it has nevertheless managed to maintain, throughout the 19th century, when it contrived to remain relatively innocent of trains. Even today it is still just too remote for the average commuter. This has meant that Norfolk's great and famous have been able to enjoy the latest that London has to offer, and at the same time retain a strong sense of local identity and pride.

All this shows up in the exhibition. There is certainly

no lack of elegance and sophistication among the works on show, which range in time from the mid-15th century right up to Tom Wood's portrait of *Timothy Colman*, completed last year.

There are two characteristic Hogarth, both commissioned by locals. One is the famous conversation piece of *The Cholmondeley Family* (1732), one of his finest contributions to the English rococo. In the other the only conversation going on is between its unfortunate subject and his chamber pot: Francis Matthew Schutz was apparently a little too partial to strong liquor, and so his wife commissioned Hogarth to paint him in bed, vomiting after a normally heavy night.

The taste of this particular piece was considered coarse enough for the 19th century to draw a veil over it, or more precisely cover it with a newspaper, which cunning over-painting made it look as though Schutz were eagerly reading. Fortunately the picture's moral is now again allowed to shine forth.

Considering the unmistakable local awareness of artistic fashion, it is perhaps not surprising that the show boasts many important names: not only Hogarth, but Holbein the Younger (two

drawings lent by the Queen, the royal family being local residents ever since the future Edward VII bought Sandringham), Hilliard, Van Dyck, Reynolds, Ramsay, Sargent and even Francis Bacon, who has portrayed Lisa Sainsbury in his own inimitable style. With a few exceptions, however, the biggest names perform

here in a lacklustre manner. Perhaps our expectations are automatically too high. On the other hand, artists of relatively little fame, and sometimes of total anonymity, do attract the eye.

One of the earliest pictures to remain in the memory, for example, is anon's artless image of *The Tasburgh Family*

(1615/16), in which a brood of six gaily bedecked children are presided over by their puffy and mournful-looking mother in deepest black. She was, it seems, unhappily married, which is suggested as a reason for the absence of the husband — though if that were the criterion, one wonders how many of the show's many

family groups would be intact. It is difficult to imagine that the family in Henry Walton's enchanting *Sir Robert and Lady Buxton and their daughter Anne* (c.1786) were not contented. Walton was a pupil of Zoffany, which shows in the lightness and elegance of this image, with its exquisitely toned symphony of greys. But it would not be easy to match the controlled informality of this painting in any other painter this side of the Channel, except perhaps Ramsay.

Nor does the show fall off after the Regency period. The three portraits included by the 1860s illustrator Frederick Sandys (born and raised in Norwich) come as a particularly pleasant surprise. The earliest, of *Adelaide May*, Mrs Philip Beddingfield, looks much more like a German Nazarene than an English Pre-Raphaelite, though Sandys was closely linked with the Brotherhood.

The latest, *Cyril Flower, Lord Battersea*, is an astonishing tour-de-force of large-scale design in coloured chalks, and looks boldly ahead (from 1877) to the 1900s. It is also good to see a Munnings, *Daniel Tomkins and his Dog*, dating from the period when Munnings was still a good painter, and a powerful Self-



Contented: Sir Robert and Lady Buxton and their daughter Anne, by Henry Walton

TELEVISION REVIEW

One-way traffic

The Broken Spoke is a country music dance joint in Austin, Texas. You know what modern country music is: the only musical form that could put an electric fiddle and an electric guitar in the same band and think it made any sense. The MC at the Broken Spoke is clear about where he is at, culturally speaking: "Nothin' fancy out here, none of that Pierre water."

He introduces the act of Jimmy Tingle, a left wing (by American standards) comedian from Boston via New York. Tingle goes down like a lead balloon but he knows when to quit. As soon as the sullen silence turns to shouts of "Get off, now," Tingle's fine-tuned sensibility to the state of an audience tells him where to go.

Last night brought the conclusion of a Traveller's Tales two-parter on Channel 4, called *As American As Apple Pie*, in which Tingle and Alan Schroeder, a college professor, have been travelling north-

south down the spine of middle America, from North Dakota to the Mexican border in Texas. The journey is a relatively unusual one, for most of America is known to the world by its borders — the Pacific coast, the Eastern Seaboard, the Great Lakes and the Deep South.

Unfortunately, the success of a television documentary is not measured by the route it takes but by the insights it provides. Last night amounted to little more than a reinforcement of certain stereotypical images, such as that provided by the Broken Spoke and by a group of rodeo riders in Oklahoma, who expressed a longing for the old frontier days of guns and cattle and beans cooked over wood fires.

Even Oklahoma must have another side, but put two men

in a classic, finned convertible from Detroit's halcyon days and set them loose on this road and you will get, I suppose, the insights they think we are expecting rather than anything fresh. Indeed, Tingle, especially, and Schroeder seemed more surprised to find this other America than I was, but then I have lived with countless British documentaries about the States.

If you address an enquiry about Oklahoma to a native New Yorker or a Bostonian, a look of bemusement mixed with alarm spreads on their faces. I consult Americans only if I want to know what lies inside Madame Tussauds, and why they continue to queue to see it.

What we badly need is an American series about Britain.

something that the transatlantic documentary industry is reluctant to provide. Ruby Wax has done it in a small, showbiz way but a serious attempt to hold up a mirror (it only fogs when we hold it up ourselves) would provide these too-insular islanders with a jolt from which they could only benefit. Consider the impact, some years ago, of a single *Time* magazine cover story called "The Tribes of Britain".

I think we know the archetypal Broken Spoke, as indeed we know Archer City, Texas, the ghost town put on the map by writer Larry McMurtry and, definitively, by Peter Bogdanovich in a film version: *The Last Picture Show*. The reality we saw last night was too close to the so-familiar mythology.

There were entertaining moments along the way, but superficial exploration finds only a worn sear. Nuggets lie deeper in the heart of Texas.

PETER BARNARD

ARTS BRIEF

Bax up front

KEN RUSSELL, soon to present his own, very special interpretation of Gilbert and Sullivan — a *Princess Ida* for English National Opera — has not been neglecting the field in which he first won fame: film biographies of composers. His surreal BBC portrait of the Czech composer Martinu was shown last season; now London Weekend Television's *South Bank Show* has scheduled Russell's *The Secret Life of Arnold Bax* for transmission.

The film reveals the facts about the early-20th-century English composer and Master of the King's Music that the music encyclopaedias unaccountably omit — as is evident by the fact that Russell's wife, Herry Baines, plays a stripper. Glenda Jackson, unforgettable star of Russell's Tchaikovsky bio-pic *The Music Lovers*, also appears in the Bax film, which will be transmitted on November 15.

Late result

FOR her role in Roberto Rossellini's *Europa*, Ingrid Bergman was awarded the Volpi Cup for best actress at the Venice Film Festival of 1951. Then, controversially, the award was denied her on a technicality, the dialogue in the film having been dubbed. At the time, she was also widely criticised and castigated for her affair with the film's director.

Forty-one years on, there has been a change of heart and the late star's son, Roberto Rossellini, received the trophy on her behalf at the end of this year's festival. It is the original cup, about two feet high, which had been engraved at the time but was never handed over. The present-day equivalents are rather smaller.



Ingrid Bergman: her award made at last

Last chance...

CELEBRATING 250 years of Handel's *Messiah*, the exhibition "A Fine Entertainment" (Pallant House Gallery in Chichester, 0243-774557) has assembled portraits of the composer (not all flattering), the original hand-written score of *Messiah* and much Handeliania beside. The show ends on Saturday.

Portrait by another Norwich boy, Michael Andrews, stand out among some other rather niminy-piminy examples of contemporary portraiture.

But finally, it is the faces one carries away with one, back to the streets. In a show of local portraits, that is just as it should be.

● Norfolk Portraits, Castle Museum, Norwich (0603 223624) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, until November 29. Sponsored by Sotheby. Adm £1.60, concs £1.20.

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A carnival of expats

Churchill said that one vote could swing an election.

George Hill on the Americans in Britain warming up for the presidential election

No country in the world has set out more zestfully than the United States to turn the democratic process into a carnival. On presidential election night in November, Americans in the UK will be separated by the breadth of an ocean from the nationwide party back home. They must enjoy the climax of the campaign (or grieve over it) from far off. But they will be making the best of it. London on November 3 will be full of election night parties, large and small, ranging from the big traditional celebrations at the American embassy and the English-Speaking Union to smaller gatherings around the television screen in hotels and private houses as the results come in.

For the American political machines, overseas voters are a constituency well worth wooing. As Churchill said, one vote is enough to clinch an election. That just might be a postal vote or today even a fax, from overseas. Several close results in recent years, including the contest for governorship of California in 1990, are said to have been decided by postal votes.

Nearly 40 per cent of eligible expatriates cast their votes at the last presidential elections in 1988 — a rate not far short of the perennially low rate in the US itself. Republicans and Democrats alike have active permanent worldwide associations to make contact with potential supporters, tap them for contributions, and persuade them to register.

There are at least three million of the United States' citizens abroad at any one time. In Britain there is a constantly fluctuating population of at least 250,000. Only Germany among European countries is host to a larger number of American citizens. A high proportion of Americans in Germany are there as members of the forces. The contingent of American civilians in Britain, though the embassy keeps no exact figures, is almost certainly the most diverse anywhere outside the US. They include people in almost every area of life — business, the arts and the media, as well as tourists, wives and husbands of Britons, and the retired.

There is no American International Club in London, as there is in many other European capitals, to make a focus for campaigning. Unlike their compatriots elsewhere, Americans in the UK feel relatively little need to stick together or think of themselves as a community.

Republicans claim that two out of three expatriates here are supporters of the Grand Old Party. As they are a relatively wealthy group, many with interests in business, it is likely that many feel an affinity with the right. Democrats reply that business people and the middle classes have suffered severely in the recession, and hazard the guess that party allegiances are more even, broadly mirroring the balance in the US itself.

Seven weeks before voting day, the rival bandwagons in London are beginning to roll. The Democrats stole a march on their opponents last week with a reception at the House of Commons, at which Senator Paul



The thinking campaigner: Professor John Kenneth Galbraith attended the London rally with Senator Paul Tsongas to root for Clinton

Tsongas, a former unsuccessful contender for the party's nomination in this year's primaries, appeared with Professor John Kenneth Galbraith, the veteran gadfly of the American right, to rally supporters to the flag of Bill Clinton, and implicitly to put down a marker for Senator Tsongas's own presidential hopes in 1996.

It was a buoyant occasion, where the campaigning wisecracks of Senator Tsongas and Professor Galbraith raised whoops of glee from a well-heeled audience, which ranged from young law students, in Britain for only a few months, to residents with dual citizenship, settled in Britain for as long as 40 years, with Boston and the Home Counties weighing almost equally in their accents.

As they discussed the intricacies of the electoral college system, and enumerated the pivotal states where Mr Clinton must win or lose, it was clear that they had not lost touch with events and feelings at home. However, it was equally clear, as they applauded Professor Galbraith's donnish ironies, that they were far from being typical American voters. For Democrats Abroad, the occasion was something of a windfall. "It was organised very fast when we discovered three weeks ago that Senator Tsongas was coming to Britain," says Sally McNulty, the chair of the organisation in Britain. "It is a business visit rather than a political one, but he agreed to appear, and Professor Galbraith was coming to London too."

John Wood, the chairman of Republicans Abroad in Europe, has to admit that at present there are not plans for figures of equal stature from his own party to address supporters in Britain. "When we heard that

Tsongas and Galbraith were going to be here," he says, "we tried to find a Republican senator in town to debate with them, but that did not prove possible. We plan to approach any of our people who are visiting London before the election, and try to fix up an appearance."

Mr Wood, an American who has been settled in Britain for more than 20 years, is hopeful that at least one public debate between the parties will be organised. If with less notable participants. He says: "There were

also hold a party on election night, attended by 500 guests at £20 a head, and there will be two separate rooms where screens will report the results, so that Republicans and Democrats can gather to endure their suspense apart."

About 1,500 invited guests, including many British cabinet ministers and media and show business celebrities, are expected at the big election night party always held at the American embassy.

By tradition, the third principal election night party in London is held at the National Liberal Club. This year, however, the event is apparently still in doubt with only seven weeks to go.

These indications of fewer parties and fewer debates known to the political organisers suggest that interest may be lower this year than in the past. Mrs McNulty rejects the thought: "I was chair of this organisation four years ago, and there is no comparison with the level of interest then and what we are seeing now. There was great apathy a few months ago, before Ross Perot came into the campaign. But he certainly galvanised Democrats into paying attention. People here are very much in touch with the real anger against George Bush in the United States over jobs and the economy. Our office is fielding 60 calls a day now."

Mr Wood is more ready to concede that there may be less interest this year, much as they were confused in the UK at the time of your general election, and for similar reasons. Since the end of the Cold War, we have moved into a period where people are less focused and more uncertain. But it is also true that

'People here are very much in touch with the real anger against George Bush in the US over jobs and the economy. Our office is fielding 60 calls a day now'

four debates here in the weeks before the 1988 election. At the moment it does not seem likely that there will be as many this time. But debates, while fun, have little purpose. They are just a way of getting people's blood up."

One debate at least is already firmly fixed in the calendar. "We shall definitely be holding a debate on October 7, between two figures representing the parties, and two others with more detached positions," says Clare Farrow, current affairs project coordinator at the English-Speaking Union. "This year the motion will be that 'this house would vote Democrat'. The motion alternates between the parties each election year."

The English-Speaking Union will

Still famous after 50 years

Enid Blyton's agent recalls a writer whose work still enthral children

Everything used to be so out and dried: Enid Blyton was, at best, a joke — reviled by librarians, booksellers and the more "enlightened" sort of parent. In everyone's eyes (except, of course, those of the children for whom her books were intended) Blyton was a Bad Thing that would, it was to be hoped, soon go away.

This week, however, sees the 50th anniversary of the first of 21 Famous Five books. The series — despite having been mercilessly satirised by the Comic Strip and remaining as stubbornly dated as winceyette combinations — still sells a million copies a year. The BBC has recently acquired the rights in all of the 23 Noddy books from Robert Maxwell's ill-fated MacDonald Group, and this autumn launches a new animated television series, with the promise of many "new" Noddy titles to come. Annual royalties on Enid Blyton's estate (she died in 1968) amount to over £750,000. Despite even the revelations that she could sometimes be not very nice — her younger daughter, Imogen, having gone on record to say that as a mother Blyton was sorely deficient — her popularity clearly shows no sign of waning.

It is difficult not to refer to Blyton as a phenomenon — an output of over 700 titles, cumulative sales amounting to upwards of 500 million copies, translated into more languages (about 130 at the last count) than any other writers, with the exceptions of Marx, Lenin, Tolstoy and Agatha Christie.

She was born in 1897 into a lower-middle class household: her father — a cutlery salesman to whom she was devoted — left the family when Enid was just 13. Critics and amateur psychologists often cite this as the driving reason behind her lifelong compulsion to generate an endless and sun-kissed childhood.

By the age of 22, she had published nearly 150 articles, stories, reviews, plays — and a book of children's verse, which ranged from the barely tolerable to the utterly dire: "Once I found a fairy, in my cup of tea. She was nearly drowned and wet as wet could be." But by 1935, Blyton was publishing at a rate of knots — adventures, fairy tales, mysteries — and had become the mother of two daughters, Gillian and Imogen; her husband Hugh, found Enid's colossal success rather hard to handle, subsiding his fear of redundancy by means of the time-honoured masculine tradition of drinking himself into oblivion.

Divorce followed, and by the time literary agent George Greenfield came to handle Blyton's affairs in 1953, she had been happily married to Kenneth Darrell Waters, a surgeon, for over 10 years. "Her annual income was then about £150,000 (about £2m by today's values)", recalls Mr Greenfield. "But money was not really important to her. There was no side to her, but a lot was spent on good food and

wine". Mr Greenfield shudders at a memory of Blyton cooking with bottles of 1952 Chateau Lafite "out of sheer ignorance". She was red-hot on contracts, though: all her publishers (up to 17 at any one time) had to agree to print at least 25,000 copies of each title, the royalty was always 15 per cent (twice the going rate) and Blyton retained power of approval over illustrations, dust jacket and even the typeface.

But what did she do when she wasn't writing? "There was almost no such time," Mr Greenfield says. "She averaged 15 to 18 books a year, much to the chagrin of her children. She was so obviously no sort of mother at all: the girls went to boarding school, but you never seemed to see them in the holidays either. She referred to her books as



Enid Blyton and her daughters

her children. She never entertained to any degree — no great social grace, and no general conversation: she talked of royalties and sales, like most successful authors. "And what about racism and all the rest of it?" She wasn't consciously racist," Mr Greenfield says. "Although she did hate 'abroad'. She was quite hurt when the gollies in Noddy were criticised; she had strong views, though — pro-hanging, certainly."

Did she read? Read? No — I never saw her read. Well — the odd gardening book, maybe. "Was art of any importance?" "No." Music? "Not at all — no, she was totally philistine."

In the early 1960s, Blyton fell victim to Alzheimer's disease. Her husband died in 1967, although she fantasised that he was still alive. She died in a nursing home in Belsize Park the following year, at the age of 71.

Blyton's legacy seems impenetrable: her books still sell four million copies a year in the UK alone, and countless millions in translation. "I can only think that it is that sense of 'And there's honey still for tea,'" says Mr Greenfield, "that never-leaves land of dormitory feasts, adventures on rocky islands and in haunted houses: it must all be highly endearing to a youthful readership in these rougher, tougher times."

JOSEPH CONNOLLY
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While Londoners are being urged to save water, a tide is rising underground, as a fascinating new exhibition shows

The flood beneath the capital's feet

London's subterranean water level is rising by up to two metres a year. Yes, really. Recent media coverage has created an impression of everything drying out, with rivers turning into mudflats, but the apparent contradiction forms a logical pattern. Much of the water extracted from England's rural streams ends up in the biggest cities, where consumption per head is far higher than it was in the one-bath-house days. Over the same period the manufacturing industries that used to extract water from London wells have gone.

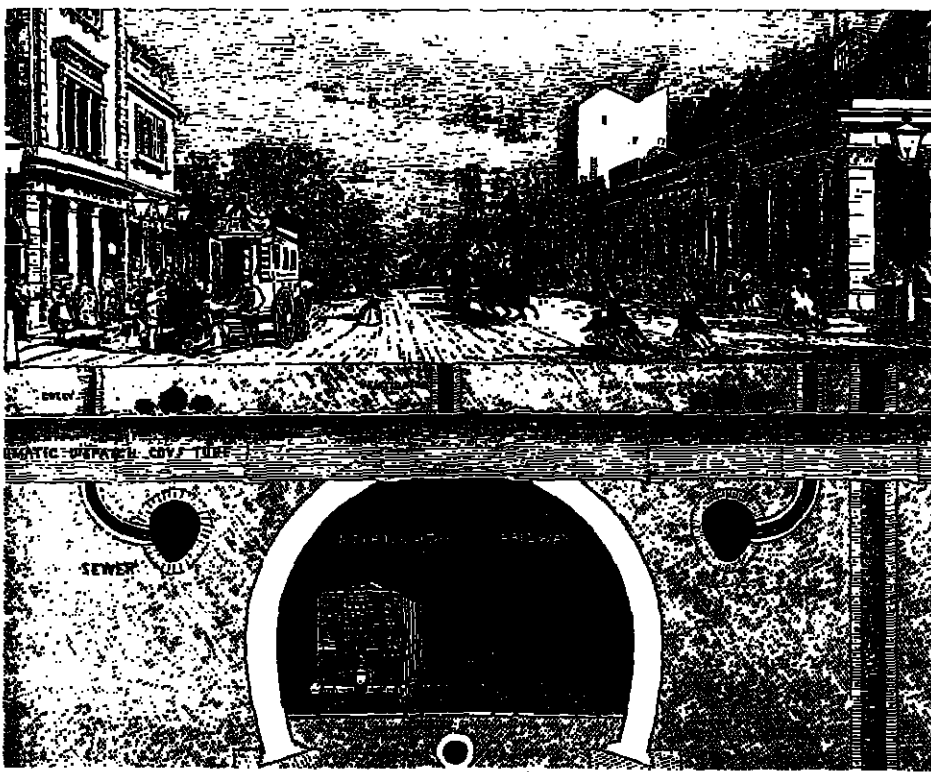
Buildings with deep cellars are having to have pumps installed: the high-rise blocks put up in the 1960s are experiencing particular problems, you may not be that sorry to hear. A recent report suggests that we need 30 new bore holes in central London to stem the rising flood. True, it is not an actual flood that is feared (theatre audiences in wellies, water lapping at the books on the subterranean floors of the new British Library) merely an overall increase in dampness and therefore pressure in London's clay: but this causes foundations to shift and gulleys to crack.

The earth, after a long period of artificial drying out during which much of present London was built, is returning to a more natural state. When Trafalgar Square's fountains were first installed they worked off artesian wells; later, London's subterranean hydraulic company powered them; in the future they may become artesian again.

All this and much more can be learned at the Building Centre's current exhibition in Store Street, with pictures, models and a video montage in which leafy views of the sources of the Fleet melt into the photogenic fungus tints of the sewers.

But though water, piped or seeping, is the most ubiquitous feature of the Other City beneath our feet, there are many more, one real criticism of this exhibition is that the subject is far too diverse to be covered in one small show, and that precise explanations are sometimes, inevitably, skimmed.

The designers feel this themselves: the limitations of space and cost within which they have worked are a microcosm of certain problems encountered by planners, architects and utility companies. So much is crowded below ground, yet there is no com-



Two worlds: cross-section at the junction of Euston Road and Tottenham Court Road

prehensive nether equivalent to the Ordnance Survey.

BT does not know quite where the gas pipes run, the gas companies are not always well-informed about the London Electricity Board and nobody even has a complete map of all the sewers because the 19th-century builders that laid many of them never got together to make one. And that is before you start on the coal bunkers, car parks, cinemas, medieval graveyards, silver vaults, extinct Tube

stations, sludge, unexploded bombs, Roman remains and the other odds and ends that make up London's underworld. It is in theory possible to make a total map, on computer, as a palimpsest of multi-dimensional projections, but even the creation of one complete small segment is an expensive enterprise and the total map remains a dream.

In these circumstances, the remarkable thing is not that competing interests under the

ground sometimes run into each other and into trouble, but that they manage as well as they do. The basic infrastructure was almost all laid down between the Battle of Waterloo and 1914; it has merely been elaborated since, and the pragmatic agreements about levels still hold good. It makes you look with new respect at the grandiose Victorian Town Improvements such as Holborn Viaduct or the Embankment when you realise that a large but invis-

ible part of their purpose was the construction of a world of separate tunnels: here a train or a tram, there a buried river, above these Sir Joseph Bazalgette's revolutionary sewer system that continues in use today, below the lot a pneumatic postal railway.

It also makes you aware of the cat-cradle of problems confronting the present-day designers of the King's Cross Eurotunnel interchange or the new Tube lines now planned. For though it is tempting to linger over such Gothic oddities as the lost stations, secret as bad dreams, or the one-time catacombs at Norwood Cemetery being used to store police hauls or narcotics, this exhibition is just as much a celebration of present and future technological delights.

You may not expect to become lyrical over a water-main, but the "ring of bright water" — the new master-plan due to start pulsing round the capital in 1996 — has its passionate devotees.

At a time when London sometimes seems to be leaderless, a country in its own right currently at the mercy of various organisations and vernal overlords, this exhibition is stimulating. If it opens more long-term questions than it answers, some of these may be explored further at the symposium that is planned for today and during a series of site visits. Ask the Building Centre for details.

GILLIAN TINDALL
● London: the underground city is at the Building Centre, 26 Store Street, London WC1E 6EQ (071-637 1022) until September 30.

Has feminism failed?

Make your voice heard in the debate, to be chaired by Melvyn Bragg, on October 6 at 7.30pm, by filling in and returning the coupon below. Neil Lyndon proposes the motion; the opposition will be led by Yvonne Roberts, with Beatrix Campbell.

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Appeal of captive creatures

Conservation centres may be worthy, says John Campion, but they do sound dull. Children need to see real, live animals

London and Londoners of all ages need a zoo. Only a return to the realities of the market will ensure the long-term survival of the one they have. With the ink barely dry on the latest reprieve, I want to suggest a modern heresy: London Zoo must return to being an unashamed vulgar attraction.

A recent programme on BBC2 suggested that the zoo's failure is a result of changing public attitudes towards keeping animals in captivity. If such pressure were a real moral imperative, there would be an unarguable case for eliminating all animal captivity except what directly relates to conservation as quickly as possible: this plainly has not happened. (No such imperative has been felt at Chester Zoo, for instance.)

So why does London Zoo go even part of the way down this road, crippling itself in the process by depleting the paying attraction — its animal collection? Does it hope to avoid getting swatted by the anti-zoo lobby by displaying only a few animals?

The fact that it is possible for anti-zoo people to make a stand does not imply that they must win: there is a very sizeable constituency, particularly the most important one, children, that comes to zoos precisely to see captive animals.

The zoo's parent body, the Zoological Society of London, could be suspected of finding the zoo a social embarrassment. Thus it has a fatal liking for prestigious architecture — probably an attempt to move the zoo upmarket — and a gate, although recently improved, incapable of sustaining it. The society wants for the zoo an internationally recognised raison d'être, which it identifies as captive breeding within a wider effort towards conservation. Conservation is not itself a money-spinner. The baby animals it involves, however, are so why not have lots of animals breeding rather than a few endangered ones?

There is an argument that endangered animals attract by their rarity. This is a simple misconception.

tion — it is the diversity of a zoo's collection rather than its rarity that is the draw; there is nothing to stop a rare animal from being dull.

London Zoo's fault lies in a failure to put the money-making functions first: all else follows. The proposal to turn the zoo into a leading conservation centre is thoroughly worthy, but as a prime draw it is boring. I am not sure I know what a conservation centre is, but I fear it is not a zoo.

The search for the "modern zoo" is a related red herring. It seems to be a more conscious attempt than the last to placate the anti-zoo lobby. (Do "wildlife park" and "ecology park" imply successively fewer animals, enabling fewer and fewer visitors to feel more and more virtuous?)

The modern zoo is likely to be strong on conservation; a few carefully chosen live exhibits will illustrate a few carefully chosen biological principles, with a fair number of explanatory static displays and the obligatory expensive showpiece — the most favoured one being a transparent underwater tunnel with sharks swimming all about you. Visitors will return once or twice for this thrill while skipping the boring bits, but there is little to awaken the love which will make visiting the zoo a lifetime habit.

And there is something patronising about all that printed pasteboard when what you really came to see was animals. None of it has the elusive magic that is the holy grail of the modern zoo movement. Which is exceedingly odd, because the answer was staring us in the face all along: animals in profusion.

To achieve this we do not need to shut animals up in small cages, or connive at a cruel and illegal trade: we can augment our collection by commerce with other zoos and the rare, properly constituted collecting expedition. We shall need more intelligent use of the space at Regent's Park, with lots of cheap, roomy wire enclosures (half a



Rare attraction: no wildlife film can match the thrill of getting close to a living, breathing panda

million pounds for the new aviary and they still couldn't get it right). The money spent on wooing the anti-zoo brigade will be far more productively employed persuading those who do like zoos to visit ours.

A zoo is one of those felicitous inventions that civilised man used to be good at devising without knowing why and without having to justify himself: a delight impossible to pin down, like ballet. It is in our natures to love them: they are expressions of our deepest humanity. I have heard the opinion expressed that we don't want a Noah's Ark at London Zoo. It is exactly what we want.

There is a strong spiritual dimension to this: we need, whether we acknowledge it or not, a glimpse of the huge diversity of our fellow creatures, to get some idea of our

place in the scheme of the Earth's ecology and beyond: this diversity itself predicated a large and diverse animal collection.

We need to require a serious curiosity, comparing animals and studying their differences at close quarters: to cultivate a tenderness for them as individuals and a respect for them as species; and to bring up our children among these incomparable riches. We can develop a personal rapport with animals in a zoo; with some of them, if we visit often enough, it is quite palpably a two-way affair; the public example of the keepers' devotion to their animals is a powerful civiliser.

Children particularly love to touch and see and smell the animals: nothing can substitute for this experience, through which

children come to appreciate and respect other species in the most direct way available to them; when they grow up they will understand the meaning of conservation better than by any amount of listlessly watching wildlife films.

These are the considerations that bring visitors back again and again. The logic is inescapable: animals are what people come to see: the more animals, the more people. Visitors need to come away from the Zoo gobsmacked with wonder — not asking themselves where on earth did they all go?

There would be nothing like the announcement that animals are returning to London Zoo to bring the visitors flocking once more.

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The author is a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London

Another red jelly day

How does it feel to be seven? That's what most grown-ups ask most children on their birthday. And on examining themselves, last year's six-year-olds find no discernable difference. Young children start out believing that there will be some perceptible alteration. My front teeth will fall out, I'll be able to ride my big brother's bicycle, I'll be allowed to stay up to watch *The Bill*.

Children are ferociously ageist. But then, we teach them to be so. In introductions to strangers, it is question number two. After "And what's your name, sonny?" comes "How old are you?" So, having spent an entire year giving the same answer, they expect the rights and rites of passage that attend the next age up to be granted overnight.

Disappointment is only diminished by other goodies that come your way on your birthday: presents — of course, party, people making a fuss of you.

Most of my peer group of parents are of an age to wish their own birth date would sink by without notice. But for my children, their birthday is still the high point of the calendar — better even than December 25, since you share that with the rest of Christendom. Your birthday makes you special for a day.

Each family develops its own ritual. Ours starts as soon after dawn as the children can prise open the adults' eyelids.

The birthday girl or boy receives a tray on which all their cards and presents under 2ft in length are arranged. The tray is decorated with a posy rapidly plucked from the garden at dead of night before. Persons under 12 get a glass jar of coloured sweets; persons over 30 get a bottle of fizz. The obligation is to share the contents with the other celebrants. If your own digestive system doesn't wake till an hour after you do, it is just as hard to murmur appreciatively over Moet as it is to suck a humbug at 6.30 in the morning.

The entire tray is placed in the centre of the parental bed and the grand opening begins. With all the family heaped on the bed someone shifts a cramped limb, tips the birthday tray and the

flower arrangement falls over. But the vase is only half full, and the colouring on Smarties will wash off a duvet cover.

So much for the party of the first part. Later in the day comes the party proper. Much as I have tried to sell the idea of a grown-up meal at a restaurant of their choice, my youngest still hankers for a bun fight of her own. If you don't invite loadsa friends, how can you get loadsa presents?

The reason all this is so fresh, if not raw, in my mind is that I've just had two birthdays to orchestrate. By coincidence, or poor planning, my children's birthdays are two days apart.

Both birthdays fall in the school holidays when it's less practical to round up their friends, so I have been skipping the party in favour of an alternative treat. My son

is content with a family visit to the Mandarin, provided we reserve the table with the central rotating section. But my daughter discovered in shame that her name was being dropped from the local six-going-on-seven party list, because she had not hosted her own soiree.

Biting the bullet, I offered a bouncing castle, a conjuror, a riverboat razzle, a knees-up at the local Methodist Hall (they will rent out their premises for almost anything), a theme party (come as a princess or a character from *Star Trek*) — speaking persuasively about the options where jelly would be danced into carpets other than my own.

Her choice was unoriginal and unshakable. The only place to throw the thrust of the season was in the upstairs room of the local hamburger joint. It was hell. They do it all for you: invitation blanks, food, disco music, Blind Man's Buff, hats, a cake, take-home bags. It is still hell. Besides her two dozen "best friends" (girls in glamorous party frocks), she invited a handful of lads, including "the worst boy in our class". He climbed the pillars, threw chips, and pursued the girls to play kiss-chase in and out of the Ladies.

The children may maintain that they don't "feel" a year older at the end of their birthday day. I can only say that I do.



DAVINA LLOYD

Playing truth or dare

There are times when children must feel it is safe to own up to their mishaps

A 11-year-old boy was so afraid of telling any one what had happened, he left his friend trapped in a peat bog for three days. Even when a police helicopter and officers with tracker dogs were brought in to search the Brecon Beacons, the boy led them, the police said, on "a wild goose chase". It was only by luck that a man walking his dog heard Matthew Davies's faint cries for help.

How do you strike a balance between being strict enough to keep children safe yet not so strict that if something goes badly wrong they are not afraid to own up?

We should not be hard on children who cannot face disasters they have brought on themselves, according to Sebastian Kraemer, a consultant child psychiatrist at the Tavistock Clinic, London. He says, "When I was that age I was scared of grown-ups and even now there are times when I avoid, say, making a telephone call because it will mean admitting to having done or not done something I should have done. Shame, I think, is the key. Also, children don't believe us when we say we won't be angry because when they do own up we usually are."

At Thomas Coram Research, London, they are conducting a survey, funded by the health department, of 600 families to find out how parents bring up and control their children. Marjorie Smith, the children's director, says: "One of the questions we are asking parents and children is, 'Have your children ever been scared of you, and have you ever been scared of your parents?'"

"Democratic" parents who explain why rules exist help children to make rational choices, like when it is essential to own up. But when they take an authoritarian "do it because I say so" approach, that leads to fear. You make your child tell you the important things



Happy ending: Matthew Davies (above, with his mother) after his ordeal in the bog

by listening. If he comes back dirty because he tried to rescue someone a parent should take a different tack.

"Children accept reasonable punishment. If it is a fair cop the episode is closed, but if they are punished for something that is not their fault they will remember it as a great injustice."

Often it is to teachers that children turn when they are frightened. June Fisher is head of Catford County School, south-east London, where there are 800 girls between eight and 11. "The most important thing if a child is pouring out his or her secrets," she says, "is that nothing must ever appear to shock you. Group morality about incidents which will get someone else into trouble is very complex, there is a very strong code of silence, and we have to use very skilled questioning in order to break it down."

Nicky Model, a child psychotherapist at the Anna Freud Clinic, London, thinks parents have become too easy-going. "There is absolutely no harm in parents making quite definite rules as far as safety is concerned," she says. "A lot of

our work is with parents who want to know when they can put their foot down. We explain they have to tell children the rules are because you love them, not because they are bad children, so if they disobey they are putting themselves at risk, not incurring parental wrath."

Mr Kraemer suggests that parents try playing a game around the table. "Ask them what sort of things they might want to keep secret, like climbing down cliffs, but which they might have to own up to, like falling down a cliff. Children can be very inventive and it would give parents a chance to talk about what to do in those circumstances."

Anne Moran, the head of Castle Town Primary School, Sunderland, which is on the banks of the River Wear, knows the difficulty of trying to teach her young pupils the dangers of drowning. "I just keep repeating my litany and hope something gets through," she says. "The difficulty is to get a balance between a rational approach and becoming paranoid."

HEATHER KIRBY

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AND BRIEFLY

Adding up to fun

MY MATHS BOX is a new learning aid for younger children or slow learners who find it difficult doing sums and looks like a game. It costs £9.99 from leading toy and bookshops such as WH Smith and John Lewis or by mail order (plus £1.35 postage) from Avant Books, 8 Parsons Green, Boulton Road, Pin Green Industrial Estate, Stevenage, Hertfordshire SG1 4QG.

Bookworms! READATHON 1992 — a chance for children to raise money for the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children through sponsored reading — will run from the beginning of October until early next year.

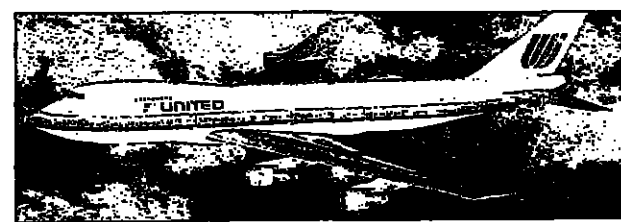
V. MCKEE

The Times, with United Airlines, offers readers Gateway to the USA

Free US flights

DAY TWO of Gateway to the USA offers you the exclusive opportunity to fly free with United Airlines:

- Claim a free pair of US domestic return flights, selected at random and valid for Economy Class return from either New York (Newark), Chicago or Washington to either Orlando, Miami, New Orleans, Denver or Phoenix, when you purchase your connecting United Airlines Transatlantic flights and fly before January 31, 1993. No newspaper purchase necessary. Details of how to claim appear this Saturday.
- Collect 12 tokens for two free seat class upgrades from Full Fare Economy to Connoisseur Class, or from Connoisseur to First Class, when booking a direct transatlantic United Airlines flight before February 1993. Token 2 app-



ears below. Full details will appear on September 26.

- Win one of 30 pairs of transatlantic return tickets, including five in Connoisseur class, to any United Airlines US destination.

To enter use the grid below (marked in world, not state, time zones) to formulate your answer. Make a note of your five answers this week and complete the entry form appearing on September 19.

DAY TWO QUESTION

A passenger boards a United Airlines 747 Flight UA919 which sets off for Washington from Heathrow Airport at 11.55 (assume GMT) due to arrive 7 hours and 55 minutes later, but a tail wind shortens the journey by 8 per cent.

Two hours 15 minutes after landing, she then connects with flight UA1027 to Orlando which touches down two hours 14 minutes after take-off.

Twenty-four hours later she telephones a friend in Sioux City. At what local time to the nearest minute was the call received? (Use 24 hour clock.)



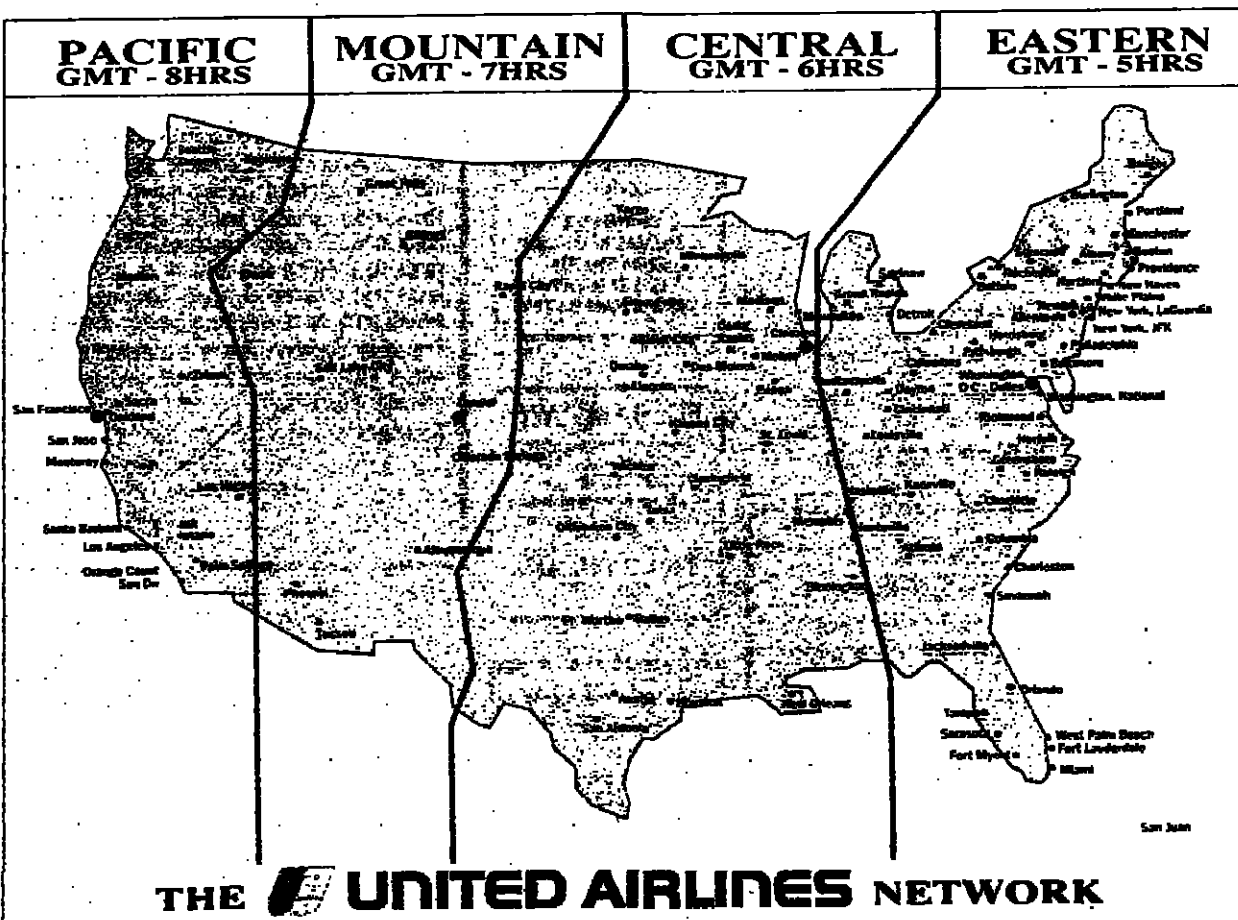
TOKEN 2

In the Great Plains

DENVER, Colorado, is the key city between Chicago and the Pacific Coast, in the middle of the Great Plains that stretch from the Mississippi river to the Rocky Mountains. Visit the Brown Palace, with its traditional Victorian decor, and the State Capitol's golden dome, from where you can see right across to the Rocky Mountains.

Many tours into the Great Plains are available. You can go to the cowboy state of Wyoming with its capital Cheyenne, famous for its lawlessness after the Union Pacific Railroad arrived there in 1867. There are still rodeos and Indian dances to be seen. In South Dakota, the Black Hills encompass great forests and lonely mining towns. At Deadwood you can gamble, and see the graves of Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane — while in the Wind Cave National Park bison still roam.

THE TIMES ZONES



THE UNITED AIRLINES NETWORK

Charlemagne's Ditch comes on stream

A canal linking the North Sea to the Black Sea is complete, 12 centuries after it was originally started. **Fabian Acker** reports on its uses

The ghosts of Charlemagne and Ludwig I will be celebrating the weekend after next, together with barge-loads of European VIPs, as they cross the small ridge that separates the watersheds of the Danube and the Rhine.

The final link in a waterway that stretches like a crooked grin across the face of Europe has finally been completed. What was begun by Charlemagne, when Europe was slipping into the Dark Ages, was finished this year — 12 centuries later.

The canal, known for a millennium as Charlemagne's Ditch ("Fossa Carolina"), provides a link between the North Sea and the Black Sea through the Danube, which flows eastwards, and the Rhine, which flows to the northwest. The two rivers are linked not only by the 110-mile canal, but also by the river Main, which connects the northwestern end of the canal to the Rhine — hence its modern name, the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal.

It will now be possible to send material (2,000 tonnes at a time) on barges from Rotterdam to the Ukraine and vice versa: barges will climb up and down almost 800 feet with the aid of hundreds of locks as they move from one river system to the other, transporting goods with the lowest energy cost (and the lowest noise), of any mechanised

transport. Recent studies in Germany have shown that carrying goods in Europe by train costs nearly three times more than carrying them by barge; road costs are six times greater.

Commercial barges are unlikely to traverse the whole route, as many of the countries involved have their own large ports. But Austria, for instance, is landlocked and Romania has no access to the Atlantic. While commercial movement over the whole route is unlikely, pleasure boat enthusiasts are already moving towards the northern waterways of Europe, ready to be among the first to cross the continent on water.

The success of the project has depended on the money it has generated, even before the first ship ever traverses the canal. The income derives from the sale of

electricity. Since the 1920s, while the canal was still being planned, small stations along the rivers have been generating electrical energy, the profits from which helped to finance the development of the whole project.

The highest section of the route, 1,350 feet above sea level, has no power stations. Because of the height, water will have to be pumped up to these locks and a small reservoir has been built to keep them topped up and to ensure that no boats get left, literally, high and dry.

Most of the water will be pumped from the Danube and the nearby Altmühl river. As the vessels move down from the Danube direction the water will move with them and eventually flow into the Main.

Although locks are necessary in almost any inland navigable water-

way, they inevitably hold up traffic while they fill up and discharge. But the barrage or dam that is built around the locking system actually helps the boats move quickly.

When a dam or barrage is built across the river it creates a deeper passage than before, and because some of the curves in the bank become inundated, a straighter one too. In addition, the speed of flow is reduced in the backed-up water. Barges have a deeper passage to navigate, and need less fuel to go against the current.

One of the most important of recent techniques was the development of a lock that could fill and empty quickly without causing excessive surges. Scientists eventually came up with a system to take water in and out by a bottom inlet, so that a loaded motor barge, with a draught of 8ft and pushing two 3,000 ton units, can be lifted or lowered nearly 80ft in about 16 minutes, with barely a ripple to show for it.

The ripples have made waves, however, in the environmentalists' pond. Despite a budget of about £173 million on landscaping, the surrounding areas have been changed, and the habitat of some of the natural wildlife has been disturbed. Many claim the canal was unnecessary, arguing that the cheapest and most effective route between the North and Black seas was via the Mediterranean.



The Rhein-Main-Danube canal runs softly through Germany



Research into the most common form of deafness is attracting increasing scientific interest as confidence grows that one day a cure can be found.

Researchers both in Britain and the United States believe they are starting to narrow in on the underlying mechanisms which might restore the cells linked with sensorineural deafness, so-called nerve deafness.

Meanwhile, tests have been carried out on a naturally occurring substance, retinoic acid, which has been linked with the multiplication and division of cells in a growing embryo to see if it might assist in helping to restore adult hearing. Only a few years ago most

Replacement of hair cells in salamanders may suggest how hearing could be regained

Sounds like hope for the deaf

scientists were convinced that sensorineural deafness would be an impossibility to treat.

This kind of deafness is most often the result of hair cells — tiny sprouting cells that line the inside of the inner ear's cochlea and which convert sound waves in nerve impulses — dying because of infections, loud noise and age. Loss of these tiny cells was considered a final and irreversible process.

This pessimism appears to be evaporating. The confidence has come from a series of animal studies carried out mainly since the 1980s, first on sharks and then on young chicks. Here it was found that ten days after being subjected to loud noise, the damaged hair cells of the young chicks had, in many cases, been almost completely restored. Further studies published in 1987 indicated that a

similar repair mechanism existed in birds following hair cells loss caused by overdoses of antibiotics.

Until recently there was no evidence that similar recovery was possible in mammals like man. But tests at Keele University on guinea pigs, whose hair cells have been damaged by drugs, have found that after three to four months all of the animals have regained hearing. Researchers have proposed dif-

ferent mechanisms for what may be happening in the lining of the cochlea but recent studies by Jeffrey Corwin and colleagues at the University of Virginia using lasers and time lapse photography appear to have all but settled the argument. After carefully liquidating hair cells from the hearing organs of salamanders they managed to observe supporting cells dividing and growing into replace-

ment hair cells. The team have concluded that supporting cells are indeed the parent hair cells and that they are only stopped from becoming these tiny hearing devices if they are next to a healthy hair cell.

The search is now on to discover the chemical cues that might trigger this regeneration. Recently Dr Corwin and Matt Kelley, his assistant, reported that embryonic mice cochlea treated with retinoic acid developed large numbers of hair cells which, if not regeneration, might offer some clues to the chemical triggers behind hair cell restoration.

NICK NUTTALL

UPDATE Pessimism about HIV

THE developer of the oral polio vaccine, Dr Albert Sabin, doubts that a vaccine can ever be found to halt the spread of the Aids virus. "In my judgment, the available data provide no basis for testing any experimental vaccine in human beings or for expecting that any HIV vaccine could be effective in human beings," Sabin says in an article published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Sabin said he is pessimistic about the chances for a vaccine because the way the AIDS virus behaves in cells makes it very difficult to halt its spread, unlike polio or measles whose spread can be checked by vaccines. The AIDS virus is one of a group of viruses that reproduce themselves inside cells. Sabin said vaccines have been developed for viruses but not for virus-containing cells.

Russian recruit

BRITAIN'S leading centre for research into superconductivity at Cambridge has recruited a leading Russian physicist to take part in a study of the theory of high-temperature superconductivity. Professor Alexandre Alexandrov, of the Moscow Engineering Physics Institute, has moved to the Interdisciplinary Research Centre in Superconductivity in Cambridge for the next five years. Dr Yao Liang, director of the centre, said: "Professor Alexandrov is extremely distinguished in this field and his work on the theory behind superconductivity is much needed. Existing theory is no longer sufficient to describe the behaviour of new materials."

Kiwis under threat

UNCONTROLLED dogs are causing a gradual decline in the numbers of New Zealand's kiwis, flightless birds that are a national symbol, the New Zealand Department of Conservation has announced. The numbers of the Great Spotted, South Island and North Island brown kiwis had all declined, the department said. Legal powers to shoot dogs attacking kiwis are being sought from Parliament. "If we get on top of the risks, we can maintain kiwi numbers on the mainland, instead of sending them to off-shore islands," said Janet Owen, director of protected species. "Kiwis can't get away from dogs. Dogs can get them out of their burrow and move a lot faster. Kiwis are completely vulnerable," she said.

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For further details contact Mike Hoskin, Manager or Chris Lyndon, News Editor, BBC Radio Cornwall on Truro (0872) 75421.

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Can Granada make its cost effective?

An accountant with no background in TV is now head of a famous production house.

Roger Graef checks the balance sheet

Last Tuesday British viewers saw *7 Up South Africa*, the latest incarnation of one of Granada Television's most inventive programmes. The idea is to follow a group of young people over the years to see whether their origins have set their futures on unchanging rails. Similar projects have already begun in Russia, Germany, Japan and America, each with seven-yearly updates.

The British cycle has already reached 35 *Up* — which is the age of Charles Allen, Granada's new chief executive. But as a light viewer who selects *Coronation Street* once a week because his girlfriend is an addict he most likely missed *7 Up* and its sequel.

That is a pity, because his own career in accountancy, hotels and leisure would hardly have pointed to his taking the helm of Britain's most distinguished commercial television company by this early age.

By all accounts, Mr Allen is a likeable man, who lectures on "motivation" at the London Business School. But he will have his work cut out for him. Granada production staff — and the rest of the industry — are still in shock.

Of all the ITV companies, Granada most clearly symbolised quality television. Its commitment to innovative current affairs, long documentaries and extensive dramas, and to nurturing talent has produced much of television's finest work and recently that of the British film industry as well — everything from *The Jewel in the Crown* and *Brideshead Revisited* to *Prime Suspect* and *My Left Foot*.

In the old days Granada took

risks, cushioned by its income from TV rentals, cinemas and more commercial (that is, less adventurous) productions. Under Lord Bernstein, Sir Dennis Forman, and David Plowright, the business thrived, allowing cultural and political patronage of a high order.

That tradition seemed to end in January with the abrupt departure of David Plowright as head of Granada Television after a row about cost cutting with the new head of the Granada Group, Gerry Robinson, also an accountant with a leisure background.

Accountants now rule most of British television, as the cries of pain from the BBC and Central over job losses and restructuring confirm. Lord Hollick runs such a tight ship at Meridian, the successor to TVS, that people have bailed out before it even sets sail. Diane Neillmes, appointed as head of news and current affairs, left in protest over the treatment of independent producers. She went to Granada.

Ms Neillmes now works on *World in Action*, for 30 years the most popular and effective investigative programme on television.

Mr Allen has announced he is proud of *World in Action*. But market forces may override his better nature. What reaction will he have to the prospect of being hauled before the courts for blasphemy or defamation or the demand to disclose sources — all of which have recently happened to Channel 4? Will his pride go before the fall in revenue which serious fines or damages might cause? And, in the unlikely event of Mr Allen backing such risks, would



Granada classics (clockwise from above) *The Jewel in the Crown*; *Coronation Street*; *Prime Suspect*



the group board support him? His appointment is the latest episode in the boardroom saga of the Granada group. When Mr Robinson took over in November 1991, there were nine months to go in the financial year. Despite the recession, he announced a new goal of £54 million profits from television alone — more than double the previous year's £22 million.

Mr Plowright argued this could

only be achieved through massive cuts, which would betray Granada's franchise commitments and eliminate all but its most commercial output. He had already shifted Granada's programme portfolio from drama and documentaries, underpinned by entertainment, to that of an entertainment-led company that made some drama and documentaries. He offered to aim for £32 million, itself a difficult target, and made serious cuts in

staff. But Mr Robinson was not satisfied, and the board backed him: Mr Plowright had to go. His successor, Andy Quinn, left after six months to become chief executive of ITV, where he faces the same pressures on an even larger scale. Once, television people dominated the group. That has changed. In addition to Mr Allen, Mr Robinson has recruited his old boss from Grand Metropolitan as a non-executive director. That makes

three former GrandMet people out of eight deciding the fate of Granada TV. Only the chairman, Alex Bernstein, has any past connection with television — he was joint managing director some years ago — and Granada producers worry that no one will resist when pressure to cut still more puts Granada's place as a production house at risk.

They also fear Mr Allen's role in the same debate within the new ITV network committees, peopled by strong and experienced personalities such as LWT's Greg Dyke, whose pro-market views are well known. Mr Allen denies he will turn Granada from a major production source into another publisher broadcaster, cutting minimal deals with independents for maximally commercial programmes, with none of the corporate stake in their prestige that the company has now.

Ironically, it was Mr Quinn and Mr Plowright who prepared the ground by dividing Granada into separate cost centres of broadcasting, production and sales — just as Leslie Hill did before cutting the famously inefficient workforce at Central. This exposes internal costs to those of outside suppliers and makes it easier to sack people when the comparison proves negative. Formerly, such threats to any staff were met by shutting down the transmitter. Now the broadcasters just thank the lord that they are not

in the firing line. (As Mr Hill put it, you call yourselves commercial television but don't act like it. He made Central so efficient that its franchise bid was unopposed, allowing him to bid just £2,000 to secure the future of those employees that remain.)

To the market, television is just another business, and programmes are a means to profit for shareholders, not an end in themselves for which money is needed and is a welcome by-product. Businessmen like Mr Hill and Mr Robinson appear deeply frustrated by the current limits on takeovers in ITV — with its enforced and uneconomical duplication of jobs — and by the slow returns, compared to the more immediate cashflow of other businesses, provided.

They are un sentimental about their impact on employees and independence — radical change is their stock in trade. They make their mark in one company, restructure it, maximise profits and move on. For Granada production staff, the danger is that Mr Allen's likely changes will mean further destabilisation and more cuts — hardly the climate for good programming.

If Mr Allen is obliged to increase profits, first, second and third, then quality television will have lost yet another champion at a time when they are sorely needed. By the time Mr Allen is 42, will Granada still want to make *42 Up*?



The danger is that Charles Allen's likely changes will mean further destabilisation

Love them or fear them, advertorials are big news in a recession-hit market

Sponsors' messages

FALLCAST

Advertisers are back from the summer holidays at home

By Gillian Triggs

THE magazine publishing business does not often get itself in a tizzy over matters of editorial ethics. It usually finds that men and women of like mind can sort out these little irritations without a lot of noisy fuss and bother.

But currently threatening the (deceptively) smooth exterior of relationships between editors and publishers is the question of the ethics of advertorials. The Periodical Publishers Association (PPA) has set up a working party to try to agree a code of practice. So have the editors, and so have the PRs, who practically invented the genre. A coalition like this means business — and a real concern.

Call it what you like — "advertisement promotion", "special promotion" — the advertorial sits rather uncomfortably somewhere between above-the-line advertising (pages paid for by the advertisers, who put on them what they like, within reason and the law) and editorial (pages paid for by the reader and, indirectly, the advertiser, on which the editor puts anything he or she likes, within reason and the law).

Advertorials are, in effect, editorial paid for by the advertiser, and this makes the editors edgy. Both the publishers and the editors can give you a million good reasons why advertorials are increasing. Straightforward display advertising is rarely beamed directly at the reader-ship of a particular magazine: it needs to be bland enough to sit in any media environment. On the other hand an advertorial, styled as it often is by the editorial staff of the host title, can take on the environment and tone of voice of the magazine.

As Jill Churchill of Redwood Publishing, a member of the British Society of Magazine Editors' working party on advertorials, says:

"Some display advertising is so boring, any kind of advertorial is preferable."

The American media magazine *Folio* calls advertorials "the look that fits", but American editors have a ferocious code that prohibits any staff journalist writing, designing or taking pictures for an advertorial.

They have been a fact of magazine life for many years. I remember in the late 1960s doing a 16-page supplement sponsored by six big-name manufacturers that ended with 135 men in hand-to-hand combat over how they thought their products should look.

But you know the sort of thing I am talking about. You turn to four pages of luscious, if rather highly coloured, cookery pictures. Something jars a little, lurking in the foreground is a bottle of branded brown sauce: a flaccid slice of ham is rolled around a piece of obviously tinned asparagus. None of it is quite in the style of the rest of the editorial. And then you read the recipes. The list of ingredients includes branded pork luncheon meat, branded cheese sauce mix, and branded potato crisp topping. All items that you just know the cookery editor would eat with ground glass rather than include in her own recipes. You turn back to the beginning and see the words "advertisement promotion". There you have it. The space is paid for. And the reason the picture isn't quite like editorial may be because the client was on the photographic shoot insisting that the product took centre stage.

about it, and there is the implied editorial endorsement.

And editorial endorsement is what makes most editors hiss between their teeth. Just how far do they have to bend over backwards to get the advertising pound? Ms Sharron, like her editors, has some nagging concerns about the question of editorial integrity in the increasing use of advertorials. Having sat on the PPA working party she is framing a research project to provide better feedback from the reader: "We know the reader is media-literate, and by large likes and understands the position of advertorials, but I fear saturation could bring a negative response."

Henry van Wyk, advertisement director of *Reader's Digest*, who chairs the PPA

working party, agrees. He wants to see very clear labelling in the same type size as is used elsewhere in signposting the magazine, and some restriction on the number of advertorials per issue.

Unlike their American counterparts, most British editors take a positive approach, preferring to get involved in the advertorial from the beginning. "We work closely with the editorial teams on our magazines and have turned away advertorials for products that they simply could not endorse," Ms Sharron says.

The whole concept of editorial endorsement has come a long way. Twenty years ago *Woman* would not publish even the brand names of the items shown in the magazine because such a thing would be seen as advertising. You had to write in for details of where to find the dress shown on page five. The reader was maddeningly inconvenienced, but editorial integrity was preserved.

I subscribe to the view that advertising is an essential part of the manufacturing cycle and that good, appropriate advertising adds to the value of any magazine. And when the chips are down, name me something other than advertising that pays for free speech and the increasing diversity of the press, over prices never will.

However, most consumer titles are bought for the editorial, not the advertising. Readers pay for an unbiased editorial opinion and background explanation on anything from the sterling crisis to the best water filter.

I am sceptical about claims that readers understand the constraints of editorial freedom within the production of an advertorial. Carried to its logical conclusion, a magazine containing only "editorial" paid for by the advertisers cannot be far away.

COVER STORY

Jane Reed

THE current ethical debate in the industry is prompted by the increasing use of the advertorial, estimated to be 3 and 5 per cent of the total advertising in consumer magazines. Four years ago *Elle* magazine ran 40 pages a year, now it runs 150. Over at the National Magazine Co (publishers of *Cosmopolitan*, *She*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Company* and others) Debra Sharron, the corporate promotions manager, says that this year they are doing 150 more pages this year than last across all titles.

The increase in advertorial is a result of the recession. "The advertising pound has to stretch further," Ms Sharron says. "While a display ad can give an impression of the product, advertorial can educate the reader in depth about it, and there is the implied editorial endorsement."

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The increase in advertorial is a result of the recession. "The advertising pound has to stretch further," Ms Sharron says. "While a display ad can give an impression of the product, advertorial can educate the reader in depth about it, and there is the implied editorial endorsement."

And editorial endorsement is what makes most editors hiss between their teeth. Just how far do they have to bend over backwards to get the advertising pound? Ms Sharron, like her editors, has some nagging concerns about the question of editorial integrity in the increasing use of advertorials. Having sat on the PPA working party she is framing a research project to provide better feedback from the reader: "We know the reader is media-literate, and by large likes and understands the position of advertorials, but I fear saturation could bring a negative response."

Henry van Wyk, advertisement director of *Reader's Digest*, who chairs the PPA

working party, agrees. He wants to see very clear labelling in the same type size as is used elsewhere in signposting the magazine, and some restriction on the number of advertorials per issue.

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The whole concept of editorial endorsement has come a long way. Twenty years ago *Woman* would not publish even the brand names of the items shown in the magazine because such a thing would be seen as advertising. You had to write in for details of where to find the dress shown on page five. The reader was maddeningly inconvenienced, but editorial integrity was preserved.

I subscribe to the view that advertising is an essential part of the manufacturing cycle and that good, appropriate advertising adds to the value of any magazine. And when the chips are down, name me something other than advertising that pays for free speech and the increasing diversity of the press, over prices never will.

However, most consumer titles are bought for the editorial, not the advertising. Readers pay for an unbiased editorial opinion and background explanation on anything from the sterling crisis to the best water filter.

I am sceptical about claims that readers understand the constraints of editorial freedom within the production of an advertorial. Carried to its logical conclusion, a magazine containing only "editorial" paid for by the advertisers cannot be far away.

COVER STORY

Jane Reed

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Bullish in a bare market

The Economist is changing just enough to maintain its lead in a global field of one

Ten years ago, sales of *The Economist* hovered around the 200,000 mark. As recently as 1989 its worldwide circulation was 393,000. Now, according to its latest ABC figures, for the six months to June, it has topped half a million for the first time.

Sir John Harvey-Jones, the chairman of the newspaper (the weekly magazine insists on calling itself) believes it can grow still further. Rupert Pennant-Rea, the editor, is more modest in his forecast: "I don't want to attach great significance to the 500,000 mark. I don't know what our saturation point really is. When you're operating in the international market, there is no obvious analogue."

North America is still the bedrock of the magazine's commercial stability, with 220,000 customers, but British and Irish sales breached the 100,000 mark for the first time. However, the greatest circulation rise came from continental Europe — up 16.5 per cent to 111,000 in the past year.

The Economist is nothing if not an international publication. Its undoubted worldwide influence is reflected in the confidence of the editorial staff. The amiable Mr Pennant-Rea was back last weekend from a lightning trip to the Far East where he added

another spoke to his paper's global wheel: from next month *The Economist* will begin printing in Hong Kong, its sixth site after Britain, Holland, Switzerland, the United States and Singapore.

The first trained economist in 30 years to have the job, Mr Pennant-Rea has made what he calls "incremental changes" to an already highly successful product. He has softened some of the edges, given it a more centrist political stance. The paper was redesigned shortly after he took over in 1986; eco-type, its new type-face, is shortly to go on the market.

Earlier this year, sports coverage was added to the arts and books section at the back of the paper, giving it a more rounded and contemporary "leisure" feel.

Mr Pennant-Rea has a few more gradual changes up his sleeve for the autumn. Reflecting the demands of his peripatetic readers, he intends to add a digest of world news to the potted briefs which precede the Britain and Business sections, and to publish the whole as a more reader-friendly section at the front of the paper.

He has made an interesting new appointment to replace Andrew Marr as political editor: Xan Smiley, the *Sunday Telegraph's* Washington correspondent, is better known in Africa's trouble spots than the corridors of Westminster. The paper's one-man office in Bonn will be replaced by a two-man operation in Berlin, covering eastern Europe.

Owned jointly by the *Financial Times* and prominent city families such as the Rothschilds, *The Economist* has a board of outside trustees, with the power to hire and fire the editor. "Simply, then, exaggerate," was the journalistic aphorism of Geoffrey Crowther, *The Economist's* editor of the 1950s, and that could apply equally well to the paper's business strategy.

In the financial year to March it generated revenues of £60 million and profits of £10.4 million, slightly down on 1990-1. David Gordon, the chief executive, who was once a journalist on the paper, attributes this hiccup to a decision to invest in advertising and promotion, because this was having a significant effect on circulation.

"We take the view that our circulation round the world gives us a competitive advantage," says Mr Gordon, who feels that promotional spending attracts advertising (*The Economist's* ad revenue for 1992 is already up on last year). In keeping with this thinking, a series of typically assertive *Economist* advertisements started running on Channel 4 last weekend.

The Economist is part of a tightly run group including the *Economist Intelligence Unit*, which provides business information to corporate users. The EIU's subsidiary monitor, *Business International*, is being phased out next month.

Acquisitions are carefully thought out: a bid for the Lloyd's List publishing group fell through last year, but two purchases — in Britain and the United States — are currently under consideration.

ANDREW LYCETT



Half a million sales: Rupert Pennant-Rea of *The Economist*

another spoke to his paper's global wheel: from next month *The Economist* will begin printing in Hong Kong, its sixth site after Britain, Holland, Switzerland, the United States and Singapore.

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MANAGEMENT

Rewards of dedication

Widget Finn
considers the
balance between
satisfaction and
remuneration
in charity work

Should the buzz from your job compensate for a low salary or lack of fringe benefits? Increasing professionalisation and the need for good staff has brought salary restructuring to many voluntary organisations.

On average the highest-paid charity staff receive 79 per cent of their business counterparts' salaries, says a survey by Charity Recruitment.

Voluntary bodies, however, are as diverse as commercial companies, ranging from big organisations with turnovers equivalent to those of large corporations, to charities with a handful of paid staff and an unpredictable income.

Neil Wyatt's salary depends on subscriptions from the 4,500 members of the Warwickshire Nature Conservancy Trust, which has an annual £500,000 turnover. As the trust's reserves manager he earns about £11,000, rather more, he admits, than senior people in some other conservation organisations.

Mr Wyatt surveyed pay and conditions for the staff association of the UK's 48 wildlife trusts. Salaries in some were less than £8,000 and many had no career structure or terms of employment. He says: "Conservation charities often employ staff almost as an extension of their volunteer network. Many people in their mid 20s develop their skills in a conservation trust and are poached by ecological consultancies or a larger body, such as the Countryside Commission, which may have more competitive salaries."

David Sower, the market-



Earning credibility: "Some of our staff are internationally known," says Anne Weyman, of the National Children's Bureau

ing director for Trebor, Nabisco's grocery division, had other priorities than salary. Feeling at the age of 50 that there was more to life than biscuits, he exchanged his £50,000 income for a salary on a more modest academic scale to set up Cambridge University's fund-raising campaign. When the contract ended he found salaries for senior appeals directors varied from £22,000 to £35,000.

He is now deputy appeals director at Barnardos. The charity has a £65.8 million annual income and decides its senior salaries by job evaluation and comparison with parallel jobs in charities of a similar size. The larger the charity, Mr Sower admits, the more able it is to match commercial salaries.

Sam Osmond, the general manager of the recruitment firm Charity Appointments, says comparisons between charity salaries and those in

business are irrelevant. "Matching the salary of the chief executive of a medium-sized commercial business and that of somebody running a charity for the homeless is about as meaningful as comparing it with Mother Theresa's salary," he says. "Often it would be more appropriate to

compare voluntary sector pay with that in teaching, nursing or local government."

The Cancer Research Campaign linked salaries to civil service rates in 1978, when they were low compared with private sector pay. In recent years the gap has narrowed. Other charities use university

or local government salaries as a marker.

Charity work can confer credibility, says Anne Weyman, the public affairs director for the National Children's Bureau. She says: "We have a number of staff, such as the director of our early childhood unit and the research director, who have become internationally known in their own field."

Mr Sower says self-esteem is also an important intangible benefit. However, Melinda Letts, the director of the National Asthma Campaign, gives a warning: "It is no good thinking you will get such a buzz out of working for a good cause that nothing else will matter. The fact that you are getting a warm glow will not pay the bills."

Details: Charity Appointments, 3 Spital Yard, Bishopsgate, London EC1A 6AQ (071-247 4502); Charity Recruitment, 40 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4RN (071-833 0770)

VOLUNTARY SECTOR SALARY SURVEY by CR Charity Recruitment

Chief executive of charity with income:	LO	M	UO
£1m-£3m	23,885	29,450	34,000
£3m-£10m	30,895	35,040	39,900
£10m-£25m	33,048	40,525	42,411
Director/head function:			
£1m-£3m	19,900	24,295	25,430
£3m-£10m	23,462	27,308	29,678
£10m-£25m	23,600	30,000	33,437
Functional manager:			
£1m-£3m	14,940	18,625	19,110
£3m-£10m	14,744	20,077	21,000
£10m-£25m	16,419	22,352	23,587

LO: 25 per cent earn this figure or less; 75 per cent earn this or more
M: Middle-of-market figure
UO: 75 per cent earn this figure or less; 25 per cent earn this or more

Getting it right at the town hall

Local control, accountability and participation are the aims of the new shake-up, Geoffrey Filkin writes

Local government still matters to people. It touches us all, in ways ranging from child protection to street cleaning. In changing the structure of local government — as a commission has just been set up to do in England — we must get it right.

The review, being carried out differently in Wales and Scotland, will affect how services are delivered to more than 30 million people. In England, the Local Government Commission's job is to produce a structure that is acceptable to the public and Parliament and workable for many years.

Getting it right for the 1990s is difficult enough. Getting it right for the next 40 years is much more problematic. The danger would be to concentrate on short-term issues.

Certainly, the commission should not concentrate too much on present central and local government policies, services or management methods, as these will certainly change radically in the next 20 years.

The same applies to personalities. A council's good or bad presentation to the commission should not influence decisions as these people will not be there in ten years. Similarly, although shedding a tier of local government will save money long-term, caution is needed about the accuracy of savings claimed under other options. So what should dominate the commission's thinking?

First, locality matters. People's sense of place and community must be the foundation. If all areas' needs were the same, func-

tions could be run from Whitehall. However, people must have local control over their locality in local matters. Locality and community are complex ideas but for most people the area around home or work is the most important and local government must relate to this.

Improving accountability should be the second aim. The low turnout in British local elections — much lower

than in many other European countries — is serious.

The new structure should build on accountability, above all by making it obvious who gives what service. This is why many believe in unitary local government.

The incoming authorities must make opportunities for citizens to participate. People expect to have their say in important local issues. Much more than this will be achievable if more decisions are taken locally and by councils

that consult and work with the public. This leads to the third issue, the concept of the "enabling authority". Enabling means listening and developing strategies and services in partnership with local businesses, groups and voluntary bodies. This kind of liaison is much simpler for a unitary council, whatever its size.

The commission will try to ensure that the new structure helps to achieve the Citizen's Charter. Reducing the levels of local government will help the public to know where to go for services or redress.

Finally, the commission should be flexible about the size of councils. Compulsory competitive tendering has meant that authorities can deliver services through contract as well as from in-house departments. The commission can therefore consider a wide range of sizes.

For instance, David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, is backing an all-purpose authority for Meirionnydd with a population of only 32,000. Past reorganisations have, I contend, been wrongly dominated by academic arguments about service supply being related to scale. They have given too little attention to the public's wishes.

● The author is the secretary of the Association of District Councils.



Filkin: eye on the future

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

The Paymaster General's Office encompasses three main business areas. These are:

- Banking - the maintaining of accounts and provision of banking services for public sector bodies.
- Pensions - the administration and payment of approximately 1.5 million public service pensions.
- Apex - the accumulation of financial statistics for the Treasury.

From April 1st 1993, the PGO assumes Executive Agency status under the Government's 'Next Steps' initiative.

This appointment assumes full responsibility for leading and directing the PGO at a key stage in its development.

The Paymaster General's Office

Chief Executive

Crawley, West Sussex.

The PGO aims to implement strategic plans designed to achieve a Total Quality Management approach in a more commercially orientated business environment. With the support of 3 Senior Directors and 9 Managers, you will oversee the implementation and achievement of all corporate policy and operational goals.

The Agency has approximately 864 staff and an annual budget of £25 million. An extensive remit will enable you to maximise productivity, quality of service and unit cost efficiency. To achieve this your business acumen and analytical skills must be 1st class. You should also be totally committed to the principles of team building and staff training and development.

The resulting launch of Executive Agency status therefore makes it imperative that you possess the persuasive powers and presence to manage change, encouraging new working practices and procedures, including pursuing market testing of services. A good standard of computer literacy is imperative to oversee the introduction of major new computer systems, designed to support this period of change and longer term business objectives.

Well developed communication and interpersonal skills are necessary as you will be operating at the highest levels, including liaising with customers and reporting directly to the appropriate Treasury Minister. As the Accounting Officer for the Agency, you will also deal with the National Audit Office and Public Accounts Committee on all matters relating to finance and value for money to the taxpayer.

We are seeking applications from high calibre professionals, capable of strategic evaluation, with an outstanding track record of senior managerial success in an IT led business environment of at least 500 personnel. Banking or pension administration experience would be preferred. You must also be able to demonstrate a good record of academic achievement.

The appointment will be initially for a term of 3 years with the possibility of extension, subject to performance.

Salary scale will be up to £39,000pa. (currently under review, more may be available for candidates with exceptional qualifications or experience) plus performance related pay linked to performance against agency targets. Benefits will include a non contributory pension scheme and annual leave allowance of 6 weeks. Relocation assistance will be provided, if appropriate.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 2nd October 1992), write to: Recruitment & Assessment Services, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 1JB or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551, fax (0256) 846660. Please quote reference B/166393.

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GORDONSTOUN SCHOOL CONTROLLER and Secretary to the Board

The Governors invite applications for the senior financial and administrative post at Gordonstoun and the independent prep. School, Aberlour House, on the retirement of G J Barr in late 1993. Salary and benefits negotiable. Detached house available. Details may be obtained from: The Controller, Gordonstoun School, Elgin, Moray IV30 2RF. Tel: 0343 830266 Fax: 0343 830074

THE TIMES
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071-481 4481 OR
FAX: 071-481 9313

RIVER THAMES FESTIVAL

The London Council for Sport and Recreation and The London Arts Board seek two high calibre professionals to develop the River Thames Festival planned for 1994. Both assignments are fixed for a period of six months and are offered on a consultancy basis.

Project Manager

is required to develop a 1-3 week programme covering the arts, sport, recreation and environmental projects, working with organisations in the capital. The successful candidate will have experience of working in at least one of these fields at Festival Director or senior programming level and have understanding of London government. Flair and imagination are essential. The fee is £20,000 for the six month contract.

Applications for the Project Manager should be submitted by 2 October with interviews on 9 October.

Business Development Manager

is required to raise core and project funding for the Festival from the public and private sectors. The successful candidate will have a proven track record developing business relationships in at least one of the areas relevant to the Festival. The fee is £18,000 for the six month contract.

Applications for the Business Development Manager should be submitted by 9 October with interviews on 19 October.

For further details contact Robert Gordon Clark, London Arts Board, 071 240 1313, or Andy Sutch, London Council for Sport and Recreation, on 081 778 8600.

Application forms can be ordered from Ref Thames Festival TMN, The London Arts Board, Elme House, 133 Long Acre, London WC2E 9AF. Telephone 071 240 1313. (Administration)



SIGHT SAVERS Director of Fundraising

Sight Savers are committed to preventing blindness, restoring sight and easing the personal tragedy of blindness through education and training. Over 40 years' work in developing countries has placed us at the forefront of the field in the UK voluntary sector, and we are a major partner in collaborative programmes worldwide. Income for 1992 will exceed \$8 million. Headquarters are located at Haywards Heath.

THE POSITION

- ◆ Reports to the Executive Director.
- ◆ Responsible for developing revenue fundraising strategy. Manage and motivate c.30 people in Direct Marketing, Corporate and Regional fundraising, including major gifts, legacies, grants and trading.
- ◆ Review and reform activities to meet new challenges and opportunities.
- ◆ Key task to provide focus, set clear team objectives and well defined fundraising goals.

QUALIFICATIONS

- ◆ Experience in fundraising preferred but candidates able to demonstrate a high level of achievement in the commercial sector will be considered.
- ◆ Proven management skills, graduate calibre intellect and commitment to Sight Savers' objectives.
- ◆ Decision maker with stature and outstanding interpersonal and communication skills.

Please write, enclosing full cv, Ref SL3484
7 Shaftesbury Court, Chalvey Park,
Slough, SL1 2ER



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071-481 1066

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

FAX 071-782 7826

DIRECTOR c. £20,000

The Child Psychotherapy Trust is a London-based charity, unique and pioneering in its aims to make NHS treatment for emotionally damaged children more widely available throughout the UK. The Trust's vision is to support a Director to create awareness of the urgent need to develop child psychotherapy within child mental health teams and to be responsible for funding a full programme of training grants, innovative projects and new trainings outside London. This new post is funded by The Department of Health.

Currently there are only 255 Child Psychotherapists practising within the UK. This number is disproportionately low compared with the number suitable for training, chiefly because trainees have to pay costs themselves for a long and intensive post-graduate training.

With the Association of Child Psychotherapists, the official body of the profession, the Trust is undertaking a campaign, supported by major children's organisations, aimed at the highest-levels of decision taking to seek ways of funding training within the NHS to complement the existing career structure for qualified Child Psychotherapists.

The Director will report to the Trustees and be responsible for a fulltime administrator. The Director will help to define and implement a strategic plan and be responsible for an extensive fund-raising and public relations campaign to develop services nationally and regionally.

We are looking for commitment to our objectives, an outstanding track record appropriate to our needs and management experience. Essential personal qualities are tact and enthusiasm combined with excellent presentation skills.

Please send a full CV in confidence to:
Delys Davis, Chair,
The Child Psychotherapy Trust,
c/o THER, The Tavistock Centre,
120 Belgrave Lane, London, NW3 5BA

Closing Date 6th October 1992.



DIRECTOR OF HMS BELFAST

A branch of the Imperial War Museum
The 10,500 ton Second World War cruiser HMS Belfast, moored on the River Thames opposite the Tower of London, is Europe's largest preserved warship, sole survivor of the Royal Navy's big gun ships and, since 1971, one of London's leading tourist attractions with over 200,000 visitors a year.

The Director of HMS Belfast is responsible for the overall management of the Ship, her preservation, presentation and promotion, for the services offered to visitors onboard, and for her staff and financial resources. A key aim of the post, which falls vacant on 1 February 1993, is to increase attendance and income by improving the quality of displays and services and through effective marketing and fund-raising.

Candidates for this important post should be under 55 and have a significant record of achievement, in a senior position, in the management of major museum, heritage or related attractions or other professional skills and experience relevant to the needs of the post. Service in the Royal Navy would be an advantage but is not essential.

The salary scale for this post is £29,569 - £37,928 with the opportunity of performance related pay up to £44,478 and is under review. Other benefits include five weeks annual leave, a non-contributory pension scheme, and interest-free season ticket loans.

For an application form and further details please write or telephone to The Personnel Officer, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ. Telephone 071-416 5237 (answerphone) or fax 071-416 5374.



The Imperial War Museum is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

Salisbury

C.£26-£34,000 (under review)

The Rural Development Commission is the government agency concerned with the well-being of the people who live and work in the English countryside. It has 350 staff in some 25 offices and a budget approaching £40 million.

We wish to recruit a Director of Resources to join our small senior management team. The post reports directly to the Chief Executive and is supported by two senior managers in charge of personnel and finance.

The key responsibilities of the job are developing and implementing effective human resource strategies and ensuring sound financial management. The successful applicant will face a number of challenges including developing the manpower planning system,

extending performance related pay, updating the training strategy and leading a review of the Commission's management information strategy.

The Commission is looking for someone with a high level of relevant knowledge and recent experience of financial or personnel management and at least some familiarity with the other field. Interpersonal skills, dynamism and creativity are also essential.

For further information and an application form contact Julia Kaynes, Personnel Branch, Rural Development Commission, 141 Castle Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 3TP, or telephone 0722 336255 or fax 0722 332769.

The closing date for applications is 2 October 1992.



The Commission aims to be an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

HEAD OF CHILD PROTECTION RESEARCH

LONDON £27,543 - £29,679

This is an opportunity to manage and develop national research initiatives at the forefront of child protection and child abuse prevention. The position also manages the NSPCC library and information service for internal and external users. In addition to acting as a consultant for Regional initiatives, you will manage a team of professional researchers and develop links with agencies, academic institutions and grant givers. The research function forms part of the public policy department and will work closely with policy development, child protection training, communications functions and the NSPCC Child Protection Helpline.

Essential qualities are:-

- Experience of managing staff
- Understanding of children's needs and rights
- Knowledge of policy and practice issues affecting child protection and child abuse prevention
- Experience of managing research projects
- Strong interpersonal skill for grant seeking and networking

INTERESTED? For an application form and further details about this post, please send a large 1st class S.A.E. to Sally Lawson, Personnel Department NSPCC, 67 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8RS or telephone 071-831 3938 (24 hr answerphone) quoting ref PPD/3

Closing date for COMPLETED applications 5.10.92.

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NSPCC

MANAGER ADMINISTRATION

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You will be responsible to the Chief Executive Officer.

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This clearly is a challenge and calls for an exceptional person. You will be aware of the concerns and aspirations of public authorities and business and retailing groups for achieving an attractive and exciting town centre.

This initiative is being funded in partnership with the business community, Marks & Spencer plc and Boots the Chemist.

For an informal discussion, please contact
Carrie Barton, Corporate Projects Manager on:
02323 419028
For an application form and further details
please contact The Chief Personnel Officer
Town Hall, Grove Road, Eastbourne BN21 4UG
02323 419006
Relocation assistance will be available
Interviews will be held on 6th-7th October
Closing date 25th September



PERSONAL COLUMN

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF MEETING
The Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Criminal Society of Great Britain will be held at the St. James's Hotel, Bedford Square, London, W1P 8LP, on Thursday, 28th October, 1992, at 10.00 am.
Copies of the Accounts are available on application.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 AND IN THE MATTER OF STYLIS (MANCHESTER) LIMITED (Company No. 14107361)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 106 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that the Liquidator of the above named company has received from the Court of the Companies of the above named company a copy of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 1992, and that the accounts are available for inspection at the offices of the Liquidator, 49 Old Bailey, London, EC4A 3DF, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on 15th September 1992, and on 22nd September 1992, and on 29th September 1992, and on 6th October 1992, and on 13th October 1992, and on 20th October 1992, and on 27th October 1992, and on 3rd November 1992, and on 10th November 1992, and on 17th November 1992, and on 24th November 1992, and on 1st December 1992, and on 8th December 1992, and on 15th December 1992, and on 22nd December 1992, and on 29th December 1992, and on 5th January 1993, and on 12th January 1993, and on 19th January 1993, and on 26th January 1993, and on 2nd February 1993, and on 9th February 1993, and on 16th 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CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Channel 4 Daily (5769009) 9.25 Schools (88017467)
- 6.00 Musters (b/w) (Teletext) (37031)
- 12.30 Profiles of Nature The threatened Vancouver Island marmot that hibernates for six months and gorges itself for the remainder of the year (35844)
- 1.00 Sesame Street Early-learning series (t) (30399)
- 2.00 Fitter, Faster, Stronger (1944, b/w) starring Alexander Knox Solid second world war propaganda drama about a Nazi general brought to trial by the Allies in his home village on the German/Polish border, the scene of his wartime atrocities. Directed by Alfred De Toth
- 3.00 Yours Sincerely (b/w) A young man woos his sweetheart but the romance is cut short by the girl's father who tells her to marry a money (3703979)
- 4.00 A Houseful of Plants Indoor gardening series presented by Floella Benjamin and Rachel Jordan (t) (Teletext) (370)
- 4.00 Countdown Words and numbers game (s) (554)
- 5.00 Crawshaw Paints on Holiday The first of a new series of painting programmes presented by Alwyn Crawshaw, holidaying in Majorca (404)
- 5.30 If Wishes Were Horses Series following the fortunes of a group of mixed ability children learning to ride (r) (s) (134)
- 6.00 Diamond's Comedy series set in a Peckham, south London barber's. Starring Norman Beatty (t) (Teletext) (337)
- 6.30 Roseanne's Working in the Home comedy series starring Roseanne Arnold and John Goodman (r) (Teletext) (399)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) Weather (45877)
- 7.50 Comment (667047)
- 8.00 The Big Boss A wildlife documentary about the Cape buffalo thought to be the most dangerous of the large mammals that range the African savannah. (Teletext) (3912)
- 8.30 Check Out 92 Mike Emlen investigates how companies are faking credit card fraud (s) (2047)
- 9.00 Gaudi A documentary profile of the Spanish architect Antoni



New ways to reading: Dame Marie Clay with pupil (7.50pm)

Victims of 1492? Indian girls made up for a dance (10:40pm)

10.40 Before Columbus: Invasion.
 ● **CLICK** A three-part series from the anthropological film-maker Brian Moser looks at the white man's treatment of the American Indians. Christopher Columbus and his historic voyage may be a cause for celebration in some quarters but definitely not among by the people whose language, culture and history have been oppressed in the 500 years since the Europeans arrived. This title is misleading. The Indians were indeed there before Columbus, but the programmes are about what happened after him, with the emphasis on the continued mistreatment of the Indians today. Tonight's film is about the appropriation of Indian land, a sacred bond as well as a means of survival, with graphic examples from Canada and the USA.
 ● **CRASH** The story of the discovery of the Michouds' Wood heard but for once unseen, is the narrator. (Oracle) (188554)

11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H. Australian drama (20186)

12.30 Video View. The latest releases reviewed (70960)

1.30 The Equalizer. McCall is at a wedding reception where a guest is taken hostage. Starring Edward Woodward (r) (2737719)

2.10 Bonanza. The last of the series. (17142)

3.20 60 Minutes. American news magazine (2971697)

4.10 Sailing. News from the Southampton International Boat Show (10709535)

4.40 Short Story Theatre: A Movie Star's Daughter. A schoolgirl thinks her film is popular only because her father is a film star. (150122)

5.30 ITN Morning News (53603). Ends at 6.00

10.00 Film: Life Is Sweet (1990).
CHOICE: A new season of *Film on Four* opens with writer-director Mike Leigh's much-praised study of a cheerfully chaotic London family and its residence in face of adversity. Leigh's perception of lower-middle class suburbia is essentially a comic one, and the result is a film that shuttles through a likeable humour. These are ordinary, fallible people who often bring their troubles upon themselves but usually manage to come up smiling. The leading players are Mum (Alison Steadman), resourceful and determined, Dad (Jim Broadbent), in control at work but a twit at home, and their twin daughters (Claire Skinner and Jane Horrocks). The performances are outstanding and the contrast between Steadman and Horrocks over the girl's anorexia is a memorable painful antidote to the general levity. (Teletext) (5) (788283)

11.55 Empty Nest. Comedy series starring Richard Mulligan as widowed medical man living on the Florida coast. (7) (799554)

12.25am Goya. Spanish-made biographical serial about the life and times of the Spanish artist. English dialogue (7). (Teletext) (6729852)

1.25am The Duet of Dust (1954, b/w) starring Richard Conte. Banned drama about a successful racing driver whose dedication to the sport threatens his marriage. Directed by Terence Fisher (6773516). Ends at 2.50


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As London except 1.45-50-1.25 Greater
Little Gardens (2943432) 5.10-5.40 Greater
and Aylesbury (2943432) 5.10-5.40 Greater
(405) 6.30-7.00 The Dales Diary (7571114) 1.10
Watch the Birdie! (3200232) 12.40 8.00
(5011628) 2.20 Greater London
(5011581) 2.20-2.50 6.00 Minutes (1142210) 3.10
Night Beat (5030235) 4.00 About Britain
(5079608) 5.00-5.30 30.00 (5952624)

HTV WEST
As London except 1.45-2.15 The Young
Doctors (2943432) 3.20-3.50 4.10

RADIO 3

6.55 AM Weather
7.00 On Air: Andrew McGregor
with music, news and weather
and headlines from the arts
9.00 Concert of the 1932-33 A 10
Cherubini: Overture, Eliza
(Academy of St Martin under
Neville Martinson's 'Hymne du
Fenelon (Chorus of the
French Army, Wind Orchestra
of Les Gardiens de la Paix,
and under Claude
Pichareux); Sonata No 2 in F
for horn and strings (Academy
of St Martin under Neville
Martinson); Concerto for
horn, mezzo; Elia, Ah! no pines,
Médée (Aria, Ah! no pines,
Médée; Monte Carlo
Philharmonic Orchestra under
Laurence Foster with Marilyn
Horne, mezzo); Eh quai je suis
Médée, Médée, (Scorch)
Opéra Chorus and Orchestra
under John Neschling

and Radovan Viskovic, horn
performer Berio (Santuz) horn
for oboe); Bach (Duet in E
minor, BWV 802; Duet in E
minor BWV 803); Berg (Four
for clarinet and piano, Op. 5;
Bach (Duet in G, BWV 844);
Duet in A minor, BWV 805);
Berg (Three times, ranging for
ooboe); Bach (Three-part
Invention No 9 in F major,
BWV 795); Kurtág (Games,
Bach (Three-part Invention
Ricercare, A Musical Offering);
Kurtág (Wind Quintet, Op. 2).
In the interval at 8.50 the
concert continues: Scott-Parker
John Cottingham discusses
what Descartes really said
about the human soul. The
concert continues at 8.50
Bach (Rite of Spring in B minor,
BWV 1030); Elliott Carter

9.55 Young Americans;
Generation X, Y, Xoo, etc.

10.00	Morning Service: Haydn (Cello Concerto in C); Wolf (Garnymede, Die Spärde, Die Bekehrte, Frühling übers Jahr); Schubert (Symphony No. 1 in B flat, Spring); Liszt (Petrouch- nette, Sacre aux trépas; Luciano Pavarotti); Hindemith (Symphony, Ichthus dei Meier)	reads from Douglas Mann's novel 10.15 Arvo Part from the Berlin Festival. Tabula Rasa, double concerto for two violins per- formed by Chorus and Orchestra of European Union with Gidon Kremer, violin, with Tatyana Grindenko, violin, and Jon Smirnov, piano
12.00	Gala Harmonies II	10.45
1.00pm News		● CHOICE: The time slot given to these three nights-a week-
1.05 BBC Scottish Symphony		

debut tonight, means i

3	Schubert (Symphony No 6 in G major) Op. 68 (Symphony No 6 in G major)	have just seen or heard while still collecting their thoughts.
2.35	Tippett <i>Plaza: The Balcony</i> Op. 10 (1937); Gavyn Bryce (Quartet No 2 in D minor) Op. 10 (1937); Alan Bush (Duet)	There are things to be for and against instead judgment. It worked well enough when Radio 4's Kaleidoscope employed it. But the Waves has more to offer than off-the-cuff assessment; there will also be interviews and features. Tonight's agenda includes Alan Rickman's Hamlet at London's Riverside
4.05	Brahms (Sonata in F minor, Op. 120 No 1 performed by Nicholas Cox, clarinet, and Vanessa Lalande, piano) (1901)	
4.30	Mozart (Symphony No 35 in G major) Op. 35 (1782); Alan Bush (Duet)	

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<p>5.00 In Tune: Natalie Wheen's selection of music, news, interviews and art events</p> <p>7.45 Contrasts: live from the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London. Andras Schiff, piano; Heide Holliger, oboe; Aurelie Nicplet, flute; Elmar Schmid, clarinet; Klaus Thunemann, bassoon;</p>	<p>Discoveries: Orchestral music from South America. The Welsh Symphony Orchestra under Tadeaki Otaki performs <i>Revueltas (Alcancides)</i>; Villa-Lobos (Piano Concerto No 2); Ginastera (Ballet, Estancia, excerpts)</p> <p>12.30-12.35am News</p>
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WINRY Show (8558844) **6.00** News The Sell (73797738) **11.30** Close

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast
6.00 News Briefing and 6.03
Weather 10
6.25 Prayer for the Day **6.30**
Today 6.40-6.50, 7.00-7.30,
8.00, 8.25 News, 8.35-9.00
Business News, 8.55-7.55
Weather: 7.25, 8.25 Sports
News 8.43 Jack Williams: read
by Martin Jones

9.00 News
9.05 Call Nick Ross 071-580 4444
10.00 News: The Great River (PM
only): Philip Short travels up
the Yangtze River
10.00 Daily Service (LW only)
10.10 Philip's Progress (12 of 25)
10.30 Woman's Hour with Jenni
Murray, 11.00 News
11.30 Medicine Man: Mad? or
black?

12.00pm You and Yours with John

line, come to that), exclaiming in
anything written in this
news singular, as Dave's
back: it's the story of the
wife and Gail Friday of an
interior decorator whose hair
is so long it's co-ordination is
evident in every home but his
own. He does something to
his hair, and the scene is set
for a reversal of roles.

5.00 PM with Valerie Singleton and
Pank-Parridge 5.50 Shipping
5.55 Sports

6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The House: Douglas Baxter's
by-election hopes go up in
smoke. Interview by Christopher
Lee (5 p)
7.00 News
7.05 The Archers (5)
7.20 Film on 4: Easy Money. There
are six times as many armed

2.25 **Flowers and Mair Presents ... 500**
Years of Humorous Prose:
 Alphonse Human, including
 Sailing Cat.
 A.P. Herber's cow cheque and
 Mark Twain's tirade against the
 ark 1.25
1.00 **The World as One Nick**
 Clarke in London and James
 Naughton in Harrogate
1.60 **Shipwreck** 1.35
2.00 **Nines, Thirty-Minute**
Theatre: The Foot of Love:
 Joanna Maguire's play takes a
 light-hearted look at the
 hazards of dieting. Does
 Donny love food more than
 his wife? Will her sole come
 between them? (c)
2.00 **Tingle Farts:** Record
 producer George S. Brown is
 Jeremy Michael's guest (c)
2.00 **Nines: Twenty-five Lives:** Joanna
 Buchanan with a look at some
 people with dangerous
 lives 4.05
1.00 **4.05 Kalleidoscope:**
 reviews Malcolm Bradbury's
 comic novel, *Doctor*
Criminal: Veils an exhibition
 of references to the
 new Ray Cooney farce (c)
4.45 **Short Story: Dave's Back**
 by Joyce Kilmer. Alison
 has written a goodish, witty
 humorous tale which is all
 the better for the way it is
 told by Walter. She is born
 novelist, (and a born
 everything else in the acting
 theatre as a decade ago,
 Gary Nardino's magazine
 claims that the banks and
 building societies are risking
 life, staff and customers by
 putting profit before safety
8.00 **High Resolution:**
 The Shocking History of
 Piers Plowman. Under the
 microscope is a poisonous
 element that glows in the dark
 and was once responsible for
 a plague boom in the 1300s
6.30 **The Glass and Not the**
Wine: Piers Howitt
 discusses a man who inspired
 him and continues to inspire
 others: Lionel Bellos, who for
 more than 60 years has been
 teaching and travelling (c)
9.15 **In Touch**
9.15 Kalleidoscope: (c) (c)
9.45 **1.15** **Research: Tonight**
 with Roger White (c)
10.00 **The World Tonight** with
 David Good (c)
10.45 **A Book at Bedtime:** Human
 voices
11.00 **1.15** **Live: Andrew**
 McAlister introduces readings
 to celebrate the opening of
 the Poetry Society's new
 branch
11.30 **Larkin's Jazz:** Philip Larkin,
 besides being a highly
 respected poet, was also a
 passionate about jazz (c) (c)
12.00 **12.45am News** (at 12.27)
12.45 **12.30am Shipping**
12.45 **As World Service (LW**
only)

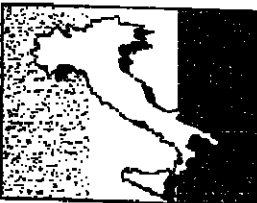
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World Service: MW 648kHz/453m. Classic FM: FM-100-102.

TODAY IN BUSINESS

VIA DOLOROSA



The devaluation of the lira comes against a background of economic woes that the Italian government has failed to tackle
Page 21

FAR AND WIDE

A wide geographical spread of businesses is the key to a 9 per cent profit rise at Morgan Crucible
Tempos, Page 20

PUNCTURED



Shares in Tom Farmer's Kwik-Fit were on the slide after interim profits were almost halved
Page 18

HELP AT HAND

Plans are in hand at Lloyd's of London for some form of financial aid for the hardest-hit names
Page 19

LAW TIMES



The courts are getting tough with mortgage fraudsters, who can now expect to face a jail sentence
Page 25

ERM revamp leaves sterling testing floor against lira and puts shares on a rollercoaster

Rate cut helps boost pound against mark

By GEORGE SIVELL

STERLING gained some breathing space in the European exchange-rate mechanism yesterday after the surprise cut in German interest rates and the Italian devaluation. But it immediately tested the floor against the lira.

At the official Bank of England 4pm close in London, the pound was up 2.5 pence against the mark at DM2.8131 and 4.05 cents down against the dollar at \$1.8937. In lunchtime New York trading, the pound stood at DM2.8092 and \$1.8920.

But yesterday's close, the lira had shot to the top of the ERM while the pound remained at the bottom. Foreign exchange dealers said they detected intervention by the Bank of England and the Bank of Italy to maintain the cross rate within the ERM parity rates.

Before the Bank of England borrowed £7.25 billion of foreign exchange ten days ago to help support the pound, sterling had been testing the \$2 level and the dollar had been down to DM1.38. Yesterday in London, the dollar stood at DM1.4885, up from DM1.4435 on the day.

Markets were generally disappointed, however, at the German interest rate cuts. The lombard rate, the emergency rate charged by the Bundesbank to lend to commercial banks, fell by only 0.25 per cent to 9.5 per cent and the discount rate charged for normal loans to the banking system fell by only 0.5 per cent to 8.25 per cent. However, the markets were cheered by a later announcement from the Bundesbank that it would reduce the market rate established at this week's money market tender to 9.2 per cent, a half-point lower than the existing level. Dealers noted that the tender rate was the one that influenced economic and foreign exchange conditions most directly. They added that the Bundesbank's announcement suggested the smaller cut in the lombard rate

was merely a token designed to pacify hardliners on the central bank council.

Nevertheless, some investors had hoped for a bigger move after Sunday's 7 per cent devaluation of the lira.

The Bundesbank said the realignment and interest cut were a response to the heavy strain felt in the ERM last week and the DM24 billion

in the domestic economy, which will mean that further cuts are unlikely to be dramatic, leading to a tough time in Europe next year.

Officials in Britain put a brighter gloss on developments. They pointed out that the differential between British and German rates is down from 6.5 per cent before ERM entry to 0.25 per cent before the weekend and now 0.5 per cent.

They reaffirmed that policy remained to set interest rates so that sterling maintained its position within the ERM. Yesterday's move was said to be helpful in paving the way for lower interest rates in time across Europe.

Talk of British interest rate cuts yesterday, however, was clearly premature. Economists said that the lombard rate would have had to have been cut by no less than 0.75 per cent to create the possibility of a British cut.

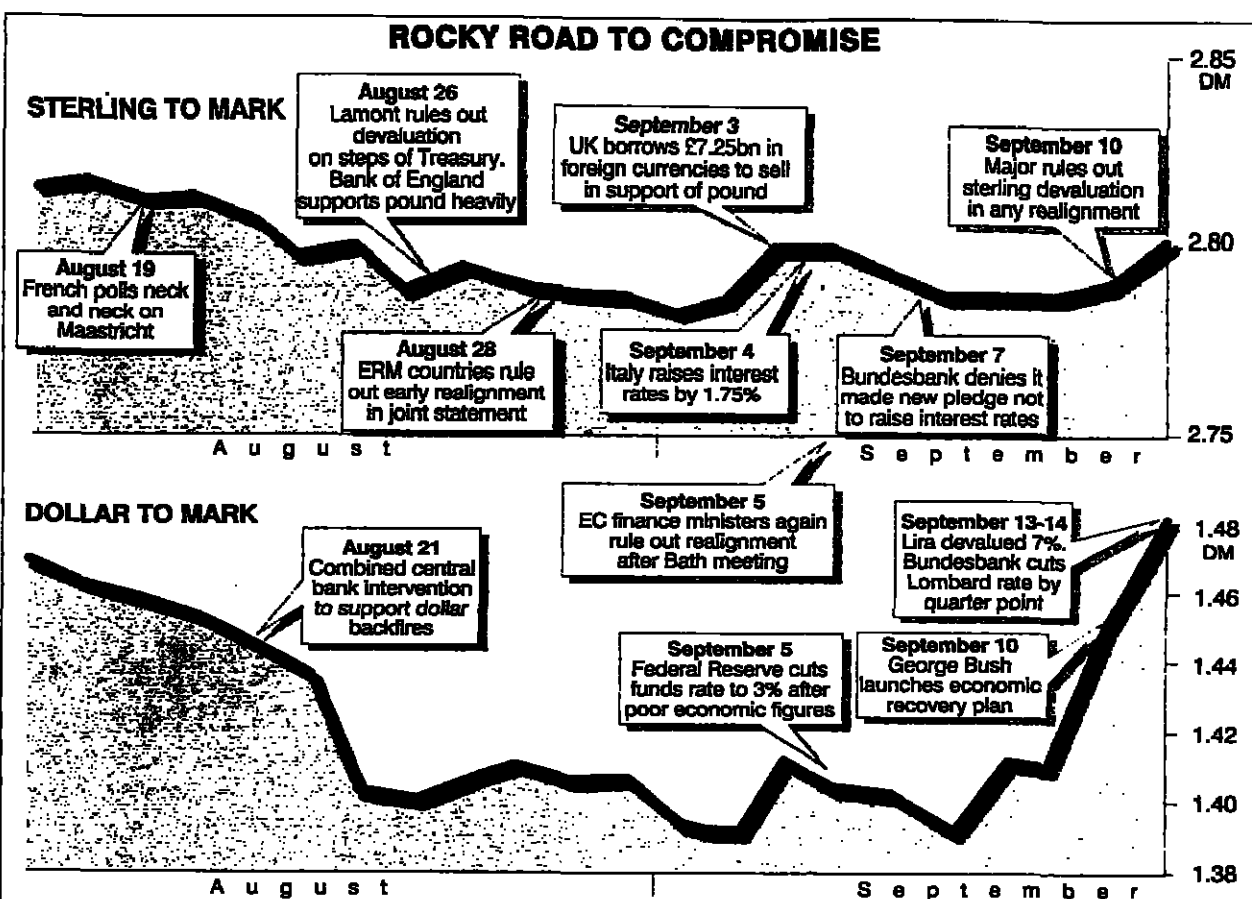
Adam Cole, a currency analyst at James Capel, said if the French referendum yielded a yes vote, sterling would remain weak but could rise. But he believed that a no vote would pose the threat of interest rises in Britain and France if there was not a realignment within the ERM.

cost of maintaining lira parity. It was worked out on Friday evening, just days after the Bath meeting of European finance ministers had ruled out realignments.

Economists pointed out the proximity of the cut to the French referendum on Maastricht on Sunday and said further cuts would be slow to follow and would depend on Germany's economy.

Kevin Darlington, an economist at UBS Phillips & Drew, said the German cut was less than had been hoped for overnight after the Italian devaluation and that sterling "remained in the firing line". He said Maastricht remained the key issue for foreign exchanges, adding that the "only change is that the ERM has been proved to be more flexible and that market pressure can dictate events".

Mr Darlington said that yesterday's cut may be the peak in the interest rate cycle but that economic revival depends on the scale of cuts that follow. He believes that subsequent German interest cuts are likely to be linked to events



Bundesbank drives shares wild

By MICHAEL CLARK, STOCK MARKET CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST £10 billion was added to the value of Britain's publicly quoted companies as the London stock market reacted wildly to the softening of interest rates across Europe.

During the first half hour, the FT-SE index soared almost 100 points as investors began pinning hopes on a cut of between half and a full point in the lombard rate.

Market-makers, who found themselves short of stock at the

end of last week, had no choice but to mark prices sharply higher in an attempt to deter the expected surge of buying orders. In the event, the quarter-point reduction in the lombard was less than many investors had hoped and with minutes prices were losing ground rapidly as market-makers went on the defensive.

By 10am the index's lead had been cut to 36 points. It was then that a few buyers began

picking up blue chips that had been looking oversold. The index recovered to close 51.2 higher at 2,422.1 as the Dow Jones average posted an early lead of 54 points.

Trading conditions in London were thin. Most fund managers see the about-turn by the Bundesbank as a step in the right direction, but they reckon it could be some time before domestic interest rates fall and few are willing to

commit themselves to opening new positions before Sunday's French referendum on Maastricht.

Government securities posted gains of almost £2 at the longer end, pleased by the dollar's revival and an encouraging performance by the pound against the mark.

Blue chips led the way higher, especially the bigger dollar earners and oil companies. Double figure gains were commonplace despite prices closing below their best of the day. BAT Industries, the tobacco and financial services group, touched a high for the day of 785p, before finishing 29p higher at 777p. There were also gains for BOC Group, 17p to 659p, BTR, 19p to 448p, Commercial Union, 19p to 510p, Cable and Wireless, 19p to 539p, Guinness, 16p to 533p, Glaxo 22p to 790p and RTZ 24p to 555p. But there was little sign of support for the interest rate sensitive sectors such as property, retailing and leisure.

Michael Priddy, a director at BAT, also welcomed the stronger dollar, which he said will help in earnings translation. BAT was one of the few companies to support sterling's ERM entry in 1990.

Bundesbank cut, page 1
Analysis, pages 2 and 3
Peter Riddell, page 12
Leading article, page 13
Stock market, page 20
Italy's impotence, page 21
Comment, page 21

Lombard move disappoints business

By PATRICIA TEHAN

BRITAIN'S business leaders are disappointed by yesterday's quarter-point cut in German interest rates fearing it is not enough to push UK interest rates down. Many firms are unconvinced that the government's economic policies are working. However, most of them, even those who argued against entry to the exchange-rate mechanism in 1990, are firmly against a devaluation of sterling.

All the companies contacted yesterday welcomed the strengthening of the dollar against European currencies. The recent strength of the

pound against the dollar has been damaging to exports.

Howard Davies, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, said he hoped yesterday's cut in the lombard rate would be the beginning of a downward trend in German rates leading to lower UK rates. But he said: "It is unlikely to provide the Chancellor with much room for manoeuvre to reduce UK rates in the short term."

Ann Robinson, head of the policy unit at the Institute of Directors, said she is disappointed by the size of the German cut. The IoD argued

that the government should not have entered the ERM until inflation had come down. Dr Robinson said the institute supports Mr Major in his aim to defeat inflation but feels there could have been better ways to achieve it. The IoD is lobbying the government for an independent Bank of England.

Donald Anderson, chief economist at Courtaulds, said the company still supports ERM membership with the pound at its present level. He said: "ERM is helpful because of the stability it promises which means it will be possible

to pursue a pan-European strategy particularly in regard to investment."

He welcomed yesterday's strengthening of the dollar against European currencies. Almost 30 per cent of Courtaulds' earnings come from America and it has been worried about the translation effect of the recent weakness in the dollar on profits.

Michael Priddy, a director at BAT, also welcomed the stronger dollar, which he said will help in earnings translation. BAT was one of the few companies to support sterling's ERM entry in 1990.

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8937 (-0.0405)
German mark
2.8131 (+0.0250)
Exchange index
91.6 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
1775.4 (+45.5)
FT-SE 100
2422.1 (+51.2)
New York Dow Jones
3358.12 (+52.42)*
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
18471.40 (+363.71)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank: 10-10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills: 9 1/2-9 3/4%
US: Prime Rate: 6%
Federal Funds: 8 1/2%
3-month Treasury bills: 2.88-2.89%
30-year bonds: 8 1/2-8 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£: \$1.8975
DM: \$2.8121
Sfr: \$1.4855
Sfr: \$1.3155
FF: \$0.0350
Yen: \$124.25
C: Index: 91.6
ECU: 10.720316 SDR: 80.754274
ECU: 1.382778 SDR: 1.325778
London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$342.75 PM \$346.25
Close \$346.20-346.70
\$182.50-183.00
New York:
Comex \$346.85-347.35*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$20.70/bbl (\$20.45)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 138.9 August (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Snacks add weight to Dalgety's results

By MATTHEW BOND

DALGETY, the food and agribusiness group, has reported pre-tax profits of £117 million for the year to end-June, a 5.3 per cent advance on the previous year.

Maurice Warren, chief executive, said he was encouraged by the performance. "Given the recessionary climate in which we have been operating, our businesses, particularly those involved in consumer foods, achieved very satisfactory results."

Mr Warren, who has announced plans to retire next year, said the search for his replacement was continuing, with internal as well as external candidates being considered. John West took over from Sir Peter Carey as group chairman this month.

Following the improvement in profits, the final dividend

has been increased to 12p (11.35p) making a total of 19.5p (18.5p). The shares closed 10p up at 395p.

In February, Dalgety paid £43 million for Sooner Snacks, an acquisition that lifted Golden Wonder's share of the snackfoods market to 20 per cent and contributed a trading profit of £2.5 million. Mr Warren said: "Golden Wonder performed strongly, increasing its market share in crisps and maintaining its leading position in the ambient ready meals sector."

Golden Wonder helped lift trading profits in consumer foods 20 per cent to £59.8 million.

Mr Warren said a further 500 jobs had been shed during the year, reducing the total workforce to 15,000.

Tempos, page 20

Inchcape wins trade licence in China

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

INCHCAPE has become the first western company to be granted a licence to trade in its own right in China, and is setting up an operation in the Shanghai district of Pudong.

Charles Mackay, chief executive, said yesterday that the group had accepted one of only three invitations from the Chinese authorities to foreign companies — the other two went to the Japanese — to operate inside China.

The country is already an important market for Inchcape, responsible for about £200 million of group turnover, and contributing "several millions of pounds" towards the advance in interim profits unveiled yesterday.

Pre-tax profits for the first half of 1992 raced from £91.3 million to £117.1 million. The bulk of the increase came from

Tozer Kemsley & Millbourn, the motor distributor and dealer acquired for £382 million earlier this year, and contributing figures for four months.

Earnings per share rose from 13.6p to 14.6p on the capital enlarged by the rights issue that paid for TKM, and the interim dividend is raised from 5p to 5.4p.

Sir David Orr, who hands over the chairmanship today to Sir David Plaster, the former chairman and chief executive of Vickers, said TKM was matching up to expectations and that the group was benefiting from the merger of its Wadham Kenning retail operations with Mann Egerton. Inchcape shares advanced 22p to 420p.

Tempos, page 20

Al-Fayeds censured by takeover panel

By ANGELA MACKAY

THE Al-Fayed brothers' reputation suffered another blow yesterday when the takeover panel censured them for misleading the market when they bid for House of Fraser and Harrods, its flagship, more than seven years ago.

The panel did not start its enquiry until the publication in March 1990 of a report by trade and industry inspectors who found that Mohamed, Salah and Ali Al-Fayed "dishonestly misrepresented their origins, their wealth, their business interests and their resources" in the course of the £573 million takeover of the retail chain in 1985.

Because House of Fraser is no longer a listed company, the panel's edict can have little effect on the group.



Mohamed Al-Fayed

The executive of the panel spent almost 18 months deciding the brothers were in breach of general principle 12 of the takeover code and began disciplinary proceedings in October 1991. The Al-Fayeds adjourned the matter pending civil litigation

brought by Tiny Rowland and Lorrho, his trading group, who consider they were wrongly prevented from bidding for House of Fraser and, as a result, the group was delivered into the hands of the Al-Fayeds.

Yesterday's statement followed two unsuccessful attempts to have the executive's decision overturned by judicial review.

The Al-Fayeds are challenging the trade department's findings before the European Commission of Human Rights as well as defending an action brought by Lorrho, House of Fraser and Kleinwort Benson, the Al-Fayeds' advisers, alleging conspiracy to mislead the market. The panel's enquiry focused on the brothers' "business interests and resources" as

described in three press releases and the offer document. There, the brothers claimed they had "widespread international interests including ship-owning, luxury hotels, construction, oil, and oil services, banking and property".

The panel concentrated on whether the brothers' statements during the takeover had created a misleading impression and found accordingly. It did not, however, deliberate on whether these statements were "intentionally misleading" because breach of general principle 12 does not call for this.

The panel cleared Kleinwort Benson of any wrongdoing, finding that the merchant bank had taken reasonable care to ensure its clients had complied with the code.

WHAT DO GILT-EDGED SECURITIES AND THE U.S. CURRENCY HAVE IN COMMON?



THEY BOTH PROMISE THE BEST PERFORMANCE

"SPONSOR YOUR INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISER AND ASK THEM HOW YOU CAN ENJOY A GILT-EDGED DOLLAR"

WHITTINGDALE

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The Whittingdale Challenger Fund is an authorised unit trust. Please remember the price of units and the income from them may fluctuate and may be affected by exchange rate movements. Whittingdale Unit Trust Management Limited is a Member of IMRO and LAUTRO. Whittingdale Limited is a member of IMRO.

Hard-up motorists leave Kwik-Fit deflated at halfway

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

PROFITS of Kwik-Fit Holdings, the replacement tyre and car parts group, almost halved in the six months to end-August, from £16.7 million to £9.7 million, putting the shares under the share price, which dropped 21p to 88p, before recovering to close at 96p. At one point this year they were trading at 225p.

Tom Farmer, the Kwik-Fit chairman and chief executive, who had warned of falling sales when the share price came under pressure in the summer, blamed the result on hard-up motorists who have been switching to cheaper tyres or delaying replacing them altogether.

Mr Farmer, who brought forward the interim results to minimise market uncertainty — the second half is only two weeks old — said there had been a significant drop in demand for tyres and associated products. Unit sales were 15 per cent lower than a year ago. Until the profit warning,

expectations had been high because the company had prided itself on its ability to thrive during a recession, based on the theory that motorists held on to their cars longer, to the advantage of the replacement parts market.

New legislation on tyre tread depth was introduced in January and had been expected to swell the market, but the substantial increase in sales seen in the last quarter of the group's previous year, was not sustained. Tyre sales dropped in May and June, Mr Farmer said, as private motorists felt the squeeze and large fleet operators introduced more stringent cost controls.

Mr Farmer said police reports indicated that in some areas up to 25 per cent of Britain's motorists were driving on illegal tyres. Many of those who did replace their tyres opted for cheaper products with lower margins. Sales of exhausts held up, however. Despite the slump in profits,

which included a £1.7 million surplus on property disposals, Kwik-Fit is holding its interim dividend at 1.35p a share. The payment is still comfortably covered by earnings of 3.82p a share, against the 7.01p reported at this time last year.

Mr Farmer said operating costs had been tightly controlled and borrowings were "restricted". Gearing was 6 per cent "and we hope to have it down to zero by the year-end," he added. The group is undertaking a significant stock reduction programme.

Capital expenditure in the period was £9 million, with seven centres opened, and a further £6 million budgeted for the second half. The group has 30 more sites under development.

Mr Farmer found it difficult to forecast future trading, but he believes the group will benefit as motorists reach the point where they cannot defer car maintenance requirements any longer.



Let down: Tom Farmer, chairman, saw profits halved

British Polythene leaps 44%

By MATTHEW BOND

BRITISH Polythene, Britain's biggest producer of polythene film, has reported a 44 per cent increase in first-half pre-tax profits to £6.5 million.

Cameron McLatchie, chairman, described the results as excellent, but warned that the company had not seen any recovery in demand and that in recent months there had been indications from its industrial and construction sector customers of a further deterioration.

He said the improvement in profits had been due to focus and specialisation in the product range and the tighter management controls implemented throughout the group in the past few years. The dividend for the six months to end-June rises to 3.5p (3p).

Operating margins increased from 7.8 per cent to 9.2 per cent. The interest charge fell from £1.2 million last time to £771,000.

The company announced it had bought BP Chemical's polythene film business for £6.4 million. The acquisition, to be known as Novathene Films, will form part of a new films division as part of a corporate restructuring.

Six investment firms declared in default

THE Investors Compensation Scheme has declared six firms in default, opening the way for investors to make claims. Five of the companies are regulated by Fimbra and one is authorised by the Securities and Investments Board. The Fimbra firms are Brombaird Investment Services, Castle Financial Services (East Anglia), Investment Marketing Services, Morton Dunn Financial Services and Scantlebury & Whyte Independent Financial Services. The SIB firm is Castle Dyke Financial Services.

The compensation scheme will contact all known investors with these firms. Any investors not hearing from the scheme should contact the Investors Compensation Scheme, Gavrelle House, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1.

Ossory reshuffles board

OSSORY Estates, the property company, has reshuffled its board for the second time this year. John Walker is stepping down as chairman and managing director but will continue as a director. Christopher Spence, who joined the board in January, will become non-executive chairman and Norman Turner will become managing director. Mr Turner is chairman of Intercity Property Group. Ossory's largest shareholder, with a 6.5 per cent stake, Interim acquired the stake last year.

EIS rises with caution

EIS Group, the specialist engineer, unveiled another rise in first half profits but sounded a more cautious note on second-half prospects. The group maintained margins despite price falls in many of its companies, helping pre-tax profits climb 4 per cent to £7.34 million in the six months to end-June. Sales edged up to £95.5 million (£92.1 million). An interim dividend of 3.225p (3.175p) is recommended. Earnings dipped to 13.062p (14.211p) diluted by last year's £18.3 million rights issue. The shares fell 4p to 366p.

Photo-Me profits slip

PRE-TAX profits at Photo-Me International, the photographic booth to express print services group, have slipped from £17.1 million to £16.4 million, but the group is paying a 3.1p final dividend for the year ended last April, lifting the total for the year from 4.2p to 4.4p. David Miller, the managing director, said that despite a difficult financial year, the group had achieved a 7 per cent increase in sales at £114.8 million. Earnings per share rose from 17.06p to 17.9p. The group continued to invest heavily.

Ransomes in the black

RANSOMES, the lawnmower manufacturer, is back in profit, but is still not resuming dividend payments. The first six months of 1992 produced pre-tax profits of £2.01 million on sales of £79.8 million, compared with the loss of £770,000 incurred in the first half of 1991 on a turnover of £76.8 million. Earnings are 1.4p a share, against a deficit of 1.6p. Trading in the second half will continue to be demanding, Bob Dodsworth, the group chief executive, said. Shareholders last received a dividend in 1990.

Gola Footwear sold

PORTER Chadburn, the specialist packaging and consumer leisure group, is selling Gola Footwear to William Lamb Footwear in a deal that could net up to £3.5 million in cash over the next four years. The stocks and business of Gola are being sold for £2 million. Porter will grant WLF a licence to worldwide rights to the Gola name in return for royalty payments of 3 per cent of sales, with minimum guaranteed payments totalling £650,000 over four years. WLF also has the right to acquire the brand for £1.35 million.

FII declines 10%

A FALL into losses at the scientific equipment division has contributed to a 10 per cent decline in pre-tax profits at FII Group, which is primarily involved in footwear manufacturing. Taxable profits for the year to end-May dropped from £7.2 million to £6.5 million on turnover virtually unchanged at £80.2 million. The final dividend has been increased from 7.75p to 8.5p, making 14p for the year, up 10 per cent. FII said margins had been depressed by the UK recession and, overseas, by adverse exchange rates.

Shearson to sell unit

AMERICAN Express's Shearson Lehman Brothers Holdings unit expects an after-tax gain of about \$150 million from the sale of The Boston Company to Mellon Bank. The deal will raise Shearson's tangible equity by about \$250 million. The sale is for \$1.453 billion. Under the agreement, TBC will be sold to Mellon for \$1.301 billion in cash, \$115 million in Mellon Bank common stock and 10-year warrants. The deal will reduce Shearson's double leverage and improve capital ratios and liquidity.

Rank Organisation deal

THE Rank Organisation, the leisure combine, has sold Rank Screen Advertising to a consortium for £20 million in cash and further subordinated preference shares worth £1 million. Another payment will be made to reflect the working capital within the business when the offer is completed. Rank Screen Advertising made trading profits of £2.5 million in the last financial year and had a book value of £5.3 million. The vendor is backed by funds advised by Schroder Ventures.

GLOBAL COMMITMENT TO BEVERAGES AND CONFECTIONERY

1992 FIRST HALF RESULTS (unaudited)

"I am pleased to report interim results which show progress overall despite difficult economic conditions in major markets and the impact of adverse exchange rates.

Sales	£1,469.9m + 3.5%
Trading Profit	£140.5m + 4.2%
Pre-Tax Profit	£126.0m + 13.0%
Earnings per share	10.27p + 1.1%
Dividend per share	3.30p + 3.1%

Conditions in our major markets remain difficult and current exchange rates will have a more negative impact in the second half.

However, we have a resilient business with excellent brands, geographical spread, strong management and a sound balance sheet. I am sure that we will continue to win a good share of the business available to us."

Graham Day
Sir Graham Day, Chairman

Cadbury Schweppes

MANAGEMENT PROVEN IN THE MARKET PLACE

THE CONTENTS OF THIS STATEMENT, FOR WHICH THE DIRECTORS OF CADBURY SCHWEPPE'S PLC ARE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE, HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECTION 57 OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES ACT 1986 BY ARTHUR ANDERSEN, AS AN AUTHORISED PERSON

SERVOMEX (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.04m
EPS: 7.0p (6.0p)
Div: 1.9p (1.8p)

ASPEN COMMS (Int)
Pre-tax: £923,000
EPS: 4.6p (6.6p)
Div: 2.0p (2.7p)

J BILHAM (Int)
Pre-tax: £238,000
EPS: 9.9p (4.5p)
Div: 1.9p (1.94p)

KINGSTON OIL & GAS
Pre-tax: £209,000
EPS: 1.00p (4.48p)
Div: 1.0p (1.0p)

ROSKEL (Int)
Pre-tax: £552,000
EPS: 2.91p (2.37p)
Div: 1.30p (1.30p)

SHARPE & FISHER (Int)
Pre-tax: £420,000
EPS: 1.5p (1.5p)
Div: 1.5p (1.5p)

UTD FRIENDLY GROUP
Pre-tax: £9.51m (£7.78m)
EPS: 9.14p (7.22p)
Div: 4.90p (4.20p)

STAR COMPUTER (Int)
Pre-tax: £119,000
EPS: 1.9p (LPS: 12.6p)
Div: Nil (nil)

Last time's profit was £922,000. Turnover rose to £9.68m (£8.54m). Gearing reduced to about 27 per cent. Trading remains difficult.

Last time's profit was £1.15m. Company expects total dividend for the year to be no less than in 1991. Turnover: £28.9m (£28m).

Last time's profit was £109,000. Gearing reduced to 38 per cent, against 70 per cent 18 months ago. Turnover static at £3.08m.

Interim results. Last time's profit was £761,000. Turnover fell 18 per cent to £2.94m. Profits fell mainly due to lower US contribution.

Last time's profit was £548,000. Turnover rose to £22.8m (£20.2m). Despite margin pressure, group says profits remain satisfactory.

There was a £252,000 loss last time. Company said it is not possible to guarantee a maintained full-year dividend, due to economic climate.

Interim results. Total life and general premiums were up 15 per cent to £140.1m. General branch underwriting loss: £1.7m (£4.2m).

There was an £888,000 loss last time. Turnover fell to £7.33m (£13.7m). Star said both trading companies have returned to profitability.

Lloyd's near to creating aid scheme for names

By JONATHAN PRYNN, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LLOYD'S of London is believed to be close to establishing a formal structure for exploring ways of providing financial relief for the hardest hit names.

The idea has been mooted by Neil Shaw, the chairman of the Association of Lloyd's Members and is thought to have been favourably received by both David Coleridge, the current chairman, and David Rowland, his likely successor.

ITC makes plea over outside producers

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

INDEPENDENT producers must be contracted to make programmes for specific ITV companies, despite the introduction of a new central commissioning system meant to end the old ITV programme supply cartel, the Independent Television Commission (ITC) said yesterday.

In a submission to the Office of Fair Trading, which is empowered to ensure the new networking arrangements are fair and competitive, the commission said responsibility for compliance with regulatory requirements had to rest upon the ITV licensees, on whom sanctions could be imposed.

But independent producers have told the OFT that the placement of programmes with individual licensees is unnecessary and opens the way for exorbitant "handling fees" and other charges imposed by ITV companies. Compliance, they say, could be delegated or collectivised.

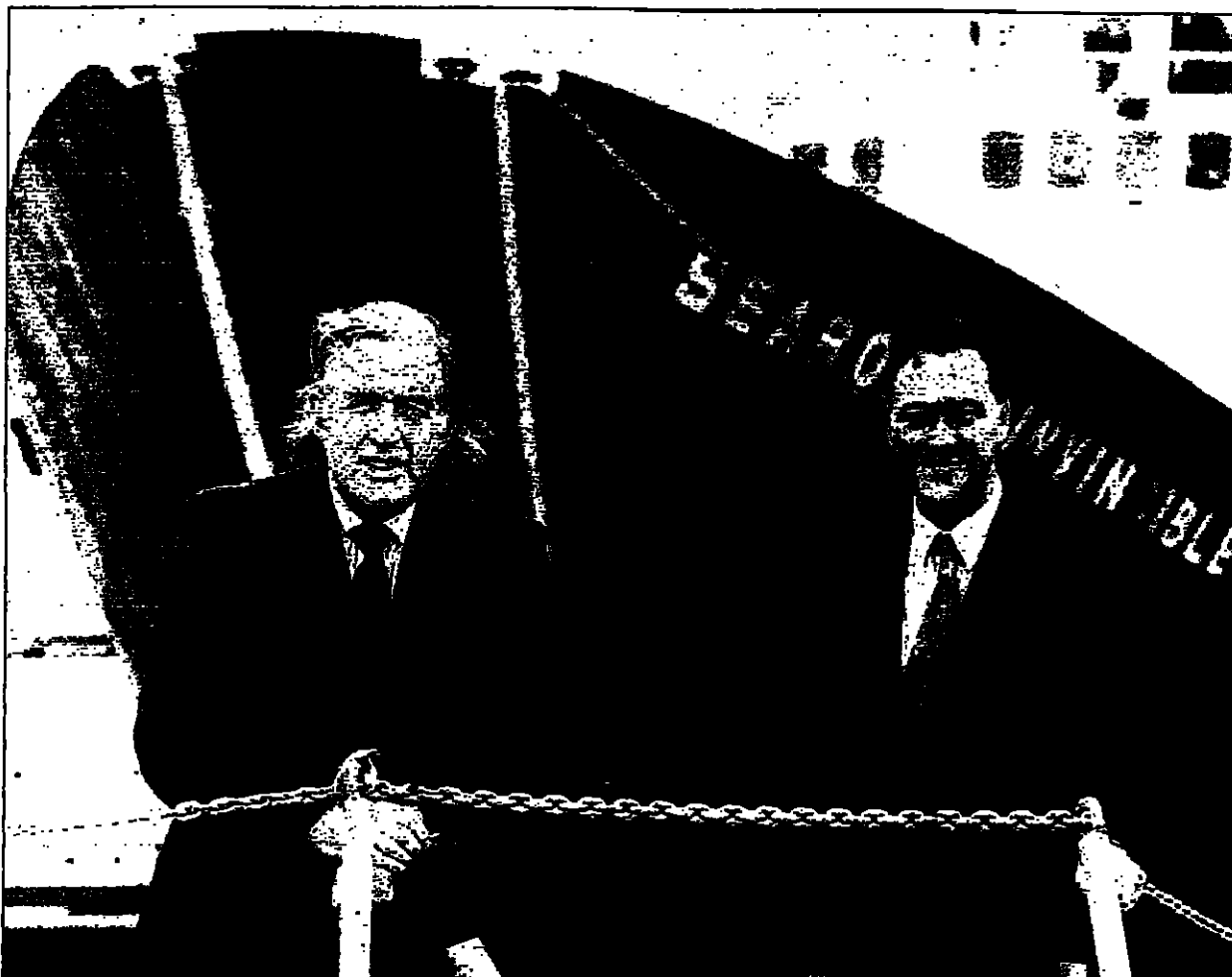
PACT, the independent producers' trade association, has supplied the OFT with evidence that some ITV companies are paying independent producers less than the agreed network tariff received for the programme. The discrepancy in some cases is as high as 20 per cent. The ITC's submission comes as the ITV Association opted to locate the central scheduling unit at ITN's Gray's Inn Road premises.

Yesterday the ITC, which agreed that independents must have the right to approach the central unit directly for commissioning purposes, said only a specific ITV company could ultimately ensure compliance with regulations by monitoring the production process to ensure an independently-produced programme "satisfies the original specification, quality and cost requirements". It said that as ITV licensees have been granted on the basis that licensees can both broadcast and produce programmes, the OFT must not interpret the competition test "in a way which treats vertical integration of this kind as either undesirable in practice or unacceptable in principle".

The OFT said last month that refusing independents direct access to the central commissioning unit was "anti-competitive practice".

Forth Ports profits from private ownership

By PHILIP PANGALOS



Steaming ahead: Hugh Thompson, chief executive, left, and Wilson Murray, finance director of Forth

FORTH Ports, Scotland's largest port operator, which was privatised this year, has declared a maiden interim dividend of 2p a share after unveiling pre-tax profits of £5.25 million in the six months to end-June.

The group, which operates six ports on the Forth estuary, is the seventh largest port operator in the United Kingdom. Operating profits rose 5 per cent to £5 million, on turnover ahead 7.5 per cent to £16.2 million. Profits at Forth, where Hugh Thompson is chief executive and Wilson Murray is finance director, were boosted by an unforeseen contract from a big customer.

William Thomson, chairman, said: "The result is very encouraging given the low level of economic activity. Although our tonnage figures are down on 1991, turnover and operating profit have increased."

There was an extraordinary gain of £1.2 million on a government debt repayment. Earnings were 11.4p a share, while gearing was 30 per cent. Analysts are looking for full-year pre-tax profits of about £7.5 million. The shares rose 9p to 176p, comparing well with March's flotation price of 110p.

GPA looks towards Continent for finance

FROM REUTERS IN DUBLIN

GPA Group, the world's largest aircraft-leasing company, is to seek a Luxembourg listing for its \$300 million refinancing, and Tony Ryan, the firm's founder, may contribute up to \$25 million of his personal fortune.

Aviation sources said on Monday that a listing for the convertible share issue will be sought initially in Luxembourg and then in other financial centres.

A quotation will assist liquidity for the cash-strapped firm whose \$1 billion flotation on the world's leading stock markets had to be cancelled abruptly in June for lack of investor support.

Since then, GPA has been urgently seeking fresh equity against the stormy background of a turbulent aviation industry hit by airline bankruptcies and struggling manufacturers.

GPA is trying to reschedule its programme of aircraft acquisitions down from about \$12 billion to \$5 billion up to the year 2000. The company is locked in talks with Boeing, Airbus, Fokker and McDonnell Douglas. It is also negotiating a \$750 million securitisation package known as Alps, the details of which are being hammered out with Citibank.

The sources said Ryan told GPA's shareholders he was prepared to contribute on a pro-rata basis to the refinancing. That would mean approximately \$25 million as he has an 8 per cent stake in the company he founded.

Another possible fund-raising avenue is the sale of some of the group's companies. GPA, based at Shannon airport in western Ireland, has invested about \$50 million in technology joint ventures such as GPA Pacific Aero Support and Pacific Aviation. It is understood that low-yielding assets are all being examined.

Aer Lingus, the Irish state airline, and Air Canada, two major shareholders in GPA, had been eager to sell a large chunk of their shares in the failed flotation to finance fleet replacement programmes.

Japan's Mitsubishi Trust and Longterm Credit Bank, two other large private shareholders, may be reluctant to inject more cash because of domestic problems, analysts said.

Whitbread sells 233 pubs to buy-in team

By OUR CITY STAFF

WHITBREAD, the brewing and retailing group, is on the brink of compliance with the government's orders on public house ownership after yesterday's sale of 233 pubs to a management buy-in team.

The deal, believed to be worth between £20 million and £25 million, brings the number of pubs Whitbread has sold or leased free of the since 1989 to 2,200, raising around £200 million.

Whitbread has 100 more pubs to release to meet the government's requirements and expects to do so "over the next few weeks". The deadline is November 1.

Peter Jarvis, Whitbread's chief executive, said the divestment and leasing programme had been "an enormous task in the recessionary market". Whitbread will be left with 4,300 managed and tenanted pubs after compliance with the Beer Orders, issued after the

Monopolies and Mergers Commission's investigation of the industry.

The buy-in team is led by Paul Smith, former group managing director of Devonshire, and includes a number of former colleagues at the brewer. Their portfolio of former Whitbread pubs is concentrated in South Wales with others in the South East, South West, Midlands and North of England. The pubs will be owned by a new company, Discovery Inns.

Mr Smith said: "We want to enhance the traditional values that once made Britain's pubs renowned throughout the world for their good ale and for the hospitality of their landlords."

The deal was arranged and led by Kleinwort Benson Development Capital and backed by funds from other City institutions. Bank finance was supplied by NM Rothschild.

Hurricane Iniki claims put at \$5bn

THE insured cost of the damage caused by Hurricane Iniki, which devastated the Hawaiian island of Kauai at the weekend, has been estimated at about \$5 billion.

The claims will bring further pain to the American insurance industry after the \$8 billion Hurricane Andrew loss in Florida last month.

In both cases the bulk of the cost will be borne by American direct insurers and claims will have only a limited impact on the London reinsurance market.

Nicholas Balcombe, the managing director of Balcombe Group, an insurance claims management specialist, said: "Iniki is the most powerful storm to have hit the island this century. Its power is comparable to that of Hurricane Andrew."

"Communications on the island have been severely disrupted, making initial assessment of the damage more problematic."

Inter-firm loans may be taxable

By PATRICIA TEHAN

INTER-COMPANY loans may become subject to corporation tax after the government squeezed new rules into this year's Finance Act as it passed through Parliament.

Gerald Leahy, director general of the Association of Corporate Treasurers, ACT, has criticised the government for "the rather sneaky way" it introduced anti-avoidance legislation into the act.

The new rules apply to interest on all loans paid after May 14 this year, regardless of when the loan was made. They mean the payer will have to account for advance corporation tax of a third of the actual amount of interest paid and the interest will not be deductible against UK taxable income and gains.

Mr Leahy said normally such changes to the Finance Act would be raised in the Budget proposals and there would be "a good deal of discussion" before changes were made.

distribution for corporation tax purposes.

But the ACT complains that the drafting of the new act means that inter-company loans to a subsidiary resident outside the UK will be affected where there is no particular redemption date or where the redemption date is more than 50 days after the advance.

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Frozen fare: chairman Henry Clarke dismayed market

Clarke Foods pulls interim on pay day

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

CLARKE Foods, the high profile ice cream maker that owns the Lyons Maid brand, has dismayed the stock market by withdrawing the promised interim dividend on the day it was to be paid. The company promptly lost two thirds of its value as the shares collapsed 43p to 21p.

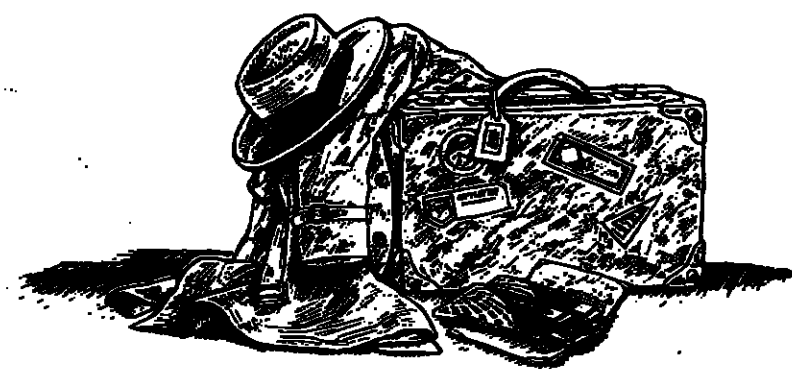
The half-way figures when the dividend was announced, the first trading statement since the purchase of Lyons Maid in January, were marred by production problems that meant insufficient ice cream was available at the start of the summer, but the interim payment to shareholders was held at 0.75p.

The group, chaired by Henry Clarke, says production problems have been resolved but poor weather since late July has left sales considerably short of expectations, leaving it carrying "substan-

tial stocks" of completed but unsold product. This has affected cash resources because the company has been unable to use more than half its invoice discounting facility, the only working capital available, and payments to suppliers and creditors have been delayed. "It is therefore no longer appropriate to pay a dividend," the company said.

Clarke Foods is in talks with bankers to remedy the shortage of working capital, principally by converting all or some of its invoice discounting facility into an overdraft. "Every effort is being made to conclude these discussions as quickly as possible," a statement to the Stock Exchange said. The company was unavailable for comment. The shares, quoted on the USM, have eroded in recent months, even before yesterday's abrupt decline.

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National Westminster Bank Business Accounts Interest Rates

National Westminster Bank announces the following interest rates, effective from 15 September 1992:

Solicitors Reserve Account		
Gross Interest per annum*	Balance	Gross Compounded Annual Rate*
8.250%	Instant Access - No minimum deposit/withdrawal	8.51%
8.125%	£100,000 - £249,999	8.38%
7.875%	£25,000 - £99,999	8.11%
7.250%	£2,000 - £24,999	7.45%
4.625%	£500 - £1,999	4.71%

* Where appropriate, Basic Rate Tax will be deducted from interest credited or paid (which may be reclaimed for resident non-taxpayers). Subject to the required registration form, interest will be paid gross.

* Gross Compounded Annual Rate is the true annual return on your savings if the interest payments are retained in the account.

National Westminster Bank Plc
41 Lombury London EC2P 2BP

New driver for smooth-running Inchcape

AS SIR David Plastow slips behind the Inchcape wheel for the first time this morning, he will find a company that appears to be running as smoothly as any Silver Cloud that purred off the production line during his years in the driving seat at Rolls-Royce Motors.

With only a third of group turnover arising in the UK, and rather more in the more buoyant economies east of Calcutta, recession is having a relatively restricted impact, and profits grew 6.5 per cent at the operating level, even after stripping out the four-month contribution from the £382 million TKM acquisition.

However, Toyota failed to make the expected advance on its 233 per cent UK market share, the important beer keg business in Japan suffered in comparison with last year's strong performance, insurance profits were hit by the virtual disappearance of the reinsurance market and shipping services had to cope with the break-up of the Scan-Dutch consortium.

But the duty of Inchcape is that whatever the number of swings, there are invariably as many roundabouts. Hence, the company's performance is a better than expected median contribution from Spinneys in the Middle East, and stronger performances from buying services and the testing division services made up the lost ground, along with the boom in trade with China.

Inchcape's unique position in the biggest emerging market place of all should not be under-estimated in the longer term. For now though, the better-than-expected first half will make it easier to achieve the £250 million pre-tax profit and 30.5p eps analysts had pencilled in, even though the late arrival of the Corolla has made life even more difficult for the UK motor business.

Morgan Crucible

AS THE UK economy continues to shrink, the proportion of Morgan Crucible's earnings derived from overseas markets climbs inexorably. In the first half of the year, it reached 84 per cent, up a further two percentage points. The company's turnover in the UK market is now worth less than half the value of its American sales, and given the ACT penalty paid for being domiciled in the UK, the company seems an obvious candidate for relocation.

The group says it has addressed the issue many times, but one factor has always kept its headquarters on British soil — the local presence of a liquid source of equity funds in the shape of the London stock market. The company has sometimes been criticised for the frequency of its rights



Different picture: Sir David Plastow, left, new chairman of Inchcape, with Sir David Orr, centre, the outgoing chairman, and Charles Mackay, chief executive

issues. However, there is little doubt that the flexibility afforded by opportunistic, equity-financed acquisitions has allowed it to achieve enviable geographical diversification.

This gives it attractive stability of earnings and flattens out the effects of roller-coaster currency markets. Profits in the first half were up 9 per cent to £31 million and the interim dividend held at 5.75p. The company has to put up with its shares being priced at a small discount to the market rating. However,

its earnings are underpinned by niche specialist materials products, many of which enjoy global market leadership, and should be regarded as solid. The shares, up 4p at 248p, are valued at about 12.6 times this year's earnings on the market's profit expectations of around £65 million. A fairly priced hedge for UK economic pessimists.

Dalgety

IN THE hit or miss world of food manufacturing, to err on

the side of dullness is currently the surest way of currying favour with investors. Predictability is king. So, curious as it may seem, it is actually a compliment to describe Maurice Warren's greatest achievement as making Dalgety, the foods and agribusiness group, profoundly dull. For it was not always so.

Mr Warren's promotion may have been a stop-gap move, but in his three years as chief executive he has successfully transformed the company. What the sale of Gill &

Duffus, the commodities business, and the Australian operations started, the positive cash flow of the honed down core activities has continued. Borrowings have fallen from some £300 million three years ago to £57 million, giving a demanding gearing level of 15 per cent.

If it resists the buying opportunities that will surely come its way, borrowings should be more or less estimated in a year's time, despite a budgeted increase in capital expenditure to £80 million.

The company's faith and investment in its branded products such as Golden Wonder, Spiller's and Homepride has been rewarded with a £10 million increase in trading profits to £59.8 million. More impressive is the increase in margins from 9.2 to 10.3 per cent. Food ingredients also fared comparatively well with trading profits only £2.1 million lower at £1.5 million, despite fierce competition.

A strong performance from the Pig Improvement Company helped agribusiness defy generally adverse trading conditions with profits of £2.1 million, £1.3 million up on last year. Food distribution made a £12 million profit, but its paper-thin margins continue to raise question marks over its long-term future.

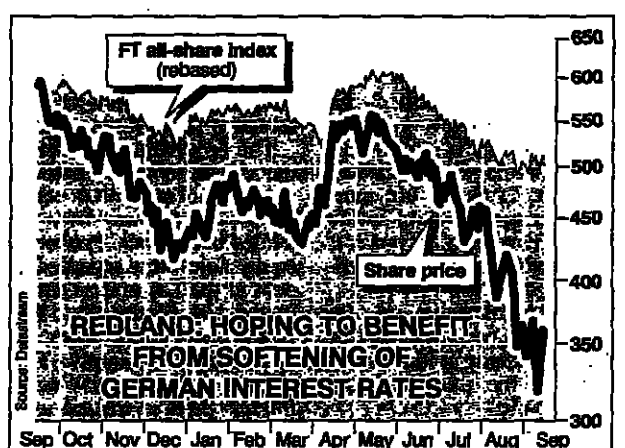
The dullness stand pre-tax profits of £117 million may grow to only £120 million this year. But dullness has its rewards and a price-earning multiple of ten suggests the shares are worth nibbling at.

Investors take cheer from a firmer pound

SHARES in London surged ahead, with the value of equities swelling by £9.4 billion as the City took cheer from a firmer pound and marginally improved prospects of a much-needed cut in domestic interest rates.

The FT-SE 100 index swept through the 2,400 level, opening with a 99.5 point advance as the market-makers were caught short of stock and marked prices sharply higher.

However, shares saw their early gains halved in a volatile session after some disappointment in the size of the German rate cut. Sentiment was boosted by a strong start on Wall Street, with the Dow Jones average up more than 59 points in early trade, helping the FT-SE close 51.2 points higher at 2,422.1. The narrower FT index of 30 shares jumped 45.5 to 1,775.4. Vol-



Waste Management, up 41p to 609p, Siebe, 24p to 321p, TI Group, 13p to 285p, Tate and Lyle, 12p to 302p, Reuters 26p to 448p, and Courtalds 5p to 427p. Other dollar-earners to advance were

interest rates might generate. Dalgety, the Spillers and Homepride food group, rose 10p to 395p after pleasing the market with a 66 million rise in half-year figures to £116.8 million. Inchcape, the international services group, also cheered analysts with better than expected interim figures showing pre-tax profits £25.8 million higher at £117.1 million. The shares responded with a rise of 22p to 420p.

The biggest fall on the day was seen in Clarke Foods, the USM-quoted food manufacturer, which tumbled 43p to 21p after cancelling its already proposed interim dividend of 0.75p. Poor weather since July means sales of ice cream have fallen short of expectations and large amounts of unsold stock has hit cash resources. Kwik-Fit, the tyre and exhaust specialist, lost 13p to

96p after seeing half-year pre-tax profits tumble from £16.7 million to £9.7 million. Sales of tyres and other products have fallen sharply. Whitbread A rose 6p to 394p after announcing the disposal of 223 pubs to Discovery Inns. The move effectively completes Whitbread's compliance with the Supply of Beer order.

MTM, the chemicals company which last week announced interim losses of £28 million, eased 1p to 28p despite news that Ken Schofield, the chief executive brought in to help to sort out the group's problems, had bought 331,000 shares at 29p each. Other directors bought a total of 65,000 shares, also at 29p.

MICHAEL CLARK

United Friendly Group plc

RESULTS FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1992

- Total premiums up 15% to £140.1 million.
- New life annual premiums up 8% to £11.3 million and single premiums of £13.5 million from £0.4 million.
- Pre tax profit up 23% to £9.5 million, dividend increased by 17%.
- General business underwriting loss reduced from £4.2 million to £1.7 million.

	Half Year	Half Year	Full Year
	1992	1991	1991
	£m	£m	£m
Premiums—Life	98.7	86.0	165.8
—General	41.4	35.7	71.7
Life business profits	3.9	4.1	10.7
General branch underwriting loss	(1.7)	(4.2)	(4.0)
Investment income and other profits	7.3	7.9	13.4
Profit attributable to shareholders	7.5	5.0	15.6
Dividend per share	4.90p	4.20p	12.30p
Earnings per share	9.14p	7.22p	20.20p

The results for the half years ending 30 June 1991 and 30 June 1992 have been taken from the unaudited 1992 Interim Statement.

The 1992 Interim Statement will be sent to all Shareholders on 22 September 1992. Copies may be obtained from the Secretary.

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High	1992	Low	Stock	Price	%	1991	Low	Stock	Price	%	1990	Low	Stock	Price	%	1989	Low	Stock	Price	%	1988	Low	Stock	Price	%	1987	Low	Stock	Price	%	1986	Low	Stock	Price	%	1985	Low	Stock	Price	%	1984	Low	Stock	Price	%	1983	Low	Stock	Price	%	1982	Low	Stock	Price	%	1981	Low	Stock	Price	%	1980	Low	Stock	Price	%	1979	Low	Stock	Price	%	1978	Low	Stock	Price	%	1977	Low	Stock	Price	%	1976	Low	Stock	Price	%	1975	Low	Stock	Price	%	1974	Low	Stock	Price	%	1973	Low	Stock	Price	%	1972	Low	Stock	Price	%	1971	Low	Stock	Price	%	1970	Low	Stock	Price	%	1969	Low	Stock	Price	%	1968	Low	Stock	Price	%	1967	Low	Stock	Price	%	1966	Low	Stock	Price	%	1965	Low	Stock	Price	%	1964	Low	Stock	Price	%	1963	Low	Stock	Price	%	1962	Low	Stock	Price	%	1961	Low	Stock	Price	%	1960	Low	Stock	Price	%	1959	Low	Stock	Price	%	1958	Low	Stock	Price	%	1957	Low	Stock	Price	%	1956	Low	Stock	Price	%	1955	Low	Stock	Price	%	1954	Low	Stock	Price	%	1953	Low	Stock	Price	%	1952	Low	Stock	Price	%	1951	Low	Stock	Price	%	1950	Low	Stock	Price	%	1949	Low	Stock	Price	%	1948	Low	Stock	Price	%	1947	Low	Stock	Price	%	1946	Low	Stock	Price	%	1945	Low	Stock	Price	%	1944	Low	Stock	Price	%	1943	Low	Stock	Price	%	1942	Low	Stock	Price	%	1941	Low	Stock	Price	%	1940	Low	Stock	Price	%	1939	Low	Stock	Price	%	1938	Low	Stock	Price	%	1937	Low	Stock	Price	%	1936	Low	Stock	Price	%	1935	Low	Stock	Price	%	1934	Low	Stock	Price	%	1933	Low	Stock	Price	%	1932	Low	Stock	Price	%	1931	Low	Stock	Price	%	1930	Low	Stock	Price	%	1929	Low	Stock	Price	%	1928	Low	Stock	Price	%	1927	Low	Stock	Price	%	1926	Low	Stock	Price	%	1925	Low	Stock	Price	%	1924	Low	Stock	Price	%	1923	Low	Stock	Price	%	1922	Low	Stock	Price	%	1921	Low	Stock	Price	%	1920	Low	Stock	Price	%	1919	Low	Stock	Price	%	1918	Low	Stock	Price	%	1917	Low	Stock	Price	%	1916	Low	Stock	Price	%	1915	Low	Stock	Price	%	1914	Low	Stock	Price	%	1913	Low	Stock	Price	%	1912	Low	Stock	Price	%	1911	Low	Stock	Price	%	1910	Low	Stock	Price	%	1909	Low	Stock	Price	%	1908	Low	Stock	Price	%	1907	Low	Stock	Price	%	1906	Low	Stock	Price	%	1905	Low	Stock	Price	%	1904	Low	Stock	Price	%	1903	Low	Stock	Price	%	1902	Low	Stock	Price	%	1901	Low	Stock	Price	%	1900	Low	Stock	Price	%	1899	Low	Stock	Price	%	1898	Low	Stock	Price	%	1897	Low	Stock	Price	%	1896	Low	Stock	Price	%	1895	Low	Stock	Price	%	1894	Low	Stock	Price	%	1893	Low	Stock	Price	%	1892	Low	Stock	Price	%	1891	Low	Stock	Price	%	1890	Low	Stock	Price	%	1889	Low	Stock	Price	%	1888	Low	Stock	Price	%	1887	Low	Stock	Price	%	1886	Low	Stock	Price	%	1885	Low	Stock	Price	%	1884	Low	Stock	Price	%	1883	Low	Stock	Price	%	1882	Low	Stock	Price	%	1881	Low	Stock	Price	%	1880	Low	Stock	Price	%	1879	Low	Stock	Price	%	1878	Low	Stock	Price	%	1877	Low	Stock	Price	%	1876	Low	Stock	Price	%	1875	Low	Stock	Price	%	1874	Low	Stock	Price	%	1873	Low	Stock	Price	%	1872	Low	Stock	Price	%	1871	Low	Stock	Price	%	1870	Low	Stock	Price	%	1869	Low	Stock	Price	%	1868	Low	Stock	Price	%	1867	Low	Stock	Price	%	1866	Low	Stock	Price	%	1865	Low	Stock	Price	%	1864	Low	Stock	Price	%	1863	Low	Stock	Price	%	1862	Low	Stock	Price	%	1861	Low	Stock	Price	%	1860	Low	Stock	Price	%	1859	Low	Stock	Price	%	1858	Low	Stock	Price	%	1857	Low	Stock	Price	%	1856	Low	Stock	Price	%	1855	Low	Stock	Price	%	1854	Low	Stock	Price	%	1853	Low	Stock	Price	%	1852	Low	Stock	Price	%	1851	Low	Stock	Price	%	1850	Low	Stock	Price	%	1849	Low	Stock	Price	%	1848	Low	Stock	Price	%	1847	Low	Stock	Price	%	1846	Low	Stock	Price	%	1845	Low	Stock	Price	%	1844	Low	Stock	Price	%	1843	Low	Stock	Price	%	1842	Low	Stock	Price	%	1841	Low	Stock	Price	%	1840	Low	Stock	Price	%	1839	Low	Stock	Price	%	1838	Low	Stock	Price	%	1837	Low	Stock	Price	%	1836	Low	Stock	Price	%	1835	Low	Stock	Price	%	1834	Low	Stock	Price	%	1833	Low	Stock	Price	%	1832	Low	Stock	Price	%	1831	Low	Stock	Price	%	1830	Low	Stock	Price	%	1829	Low	Stock	Price	%	1828	Low	Stock	Price	%	1827	Low	Stock	Price	%	1826	Low	Stock	Price	%	1825	Low	Stock	Price	%	1824	Low	Stock	Price	%	1823	Low	Stock	Price	%	1822	Low	Stock	Price	%	1821	Low	Stock	Price	%	1820	Low	Stock	Price	%	1819	Low	Stock	Price	%	1818	Low	Stock	Price	%	1817	Low	Stock	Price	%	1816	Low	Stock	Price	%	1815	Low	Stock	Price	%	1814	Low	Stock	Price	%	1813	Low	Stock	Price	%	1812	Low	Stock	Price	%	1811	Low	Stock	Price	%	1810	Low	Stock	Price	%	1809	Low	Stock	Price	%	1808	Low	Stock	Price	%	1807	Low	Stock	Price	%	1806	Low	Stock	Price	%	1805	Low	Stock	Price	%	1804	Low	Stock	Price	%	1803	Low	Stock	Price	%	1802	Low	Stock	Price	%	1801	Low	Stock	Price	%	1800	Low	Stock	Price	%	1799	Low	Stock	Price	%	1798	Low	Stock	Price	%	1797	Low	Stock	Price	%	1796	Low	Stock	Price	%	1795	Low	Stock	Price	%	1794	Low	Stock	Price	%	1793	Low	Stock	Price	%	1792	Low	Stock	Price	%	1791	Low	Stock	Price	%	1790	Low	Stock	Price	%	1789	Low	Stock	Price	%	1788	Low	Stock	Price	%	1787	Low	Stock	Price	%	1786	Low	Stock	Price	%	1785	Low	Stock	Price	%	1784	Low	Stock	Price	%	1783	Low	Stock	Price	%	1782	Low	Stock	Price	%	1781	Low	Stock	Price	%	1780	Low	Stock	Price	%	1779	Low	Stock	Price	%	1778	Low	Stock	Price	%	1777	Low	Stock	Price	%	1776	Low	Stock	Price	%	1775	Low	Stock	Price	%	1774	Low	Stock	Price	%	1773	Low	Stock	Price	%	1772	Low	Stock	Price	%	1771	Low	Stock	Price	%	1770	Low	Stock	Price	%	1769	Low	Stock	Price	%	1768	Low	Stock	Price	%	1767	Low	Stock	Price	%	1766	Low	Stock	Price	%	1765	Low	Stock	Price	%	1764	Low	Stock	Price	%	1763	Low	Stock	Price	%	1762	Low	Stock	Price	%	1761	Low	Stock	Price	%	1760	Low	Stock	Price	%	1759	Low	Stock	Price	%	1758	Low	Stock	Price	%	1757	Low	Stock	Price	%	1756	Low	Stock	Price	%	1755	Low	Stock	Price	%	1754	Low	Stock	Price	%	1753	Low	Stock	Price	%	1752	Low	Stock	Price	%	1751	Low	Stock	Price	%	1750	Low	Stock	Price	%	1749	Low	Stock	Price	%	1748	Low	Stock	Price	%	1747	Low	Stock	Price	%	1746	Low	Stock	Price	%	1745	Low	Stock	Price	%	1744	Low	Stock	Price	%	1743	Low	Stock	Price	%	1742	Low	Stock	Price	%	1741	Low	Stock	Price	%	1740	Low	Stock	Price	%	1739	Low	Stock	Price	%	1738	Low	Stock	Price	%	1737	Low	Stock	Price	%	1736	Low	Stock	Price	%	1735	Low	Stock	Price	%	1734	Low	Stock	Price	%	1733	Low	Stock	Price	%	1732	Low	Stock	Price	%	1731	Low	Stock	Price	%	1730	Low	Stock	Price	%	1729	Low	Stock	Price	%	1728	Low	Stock	Price	%	1727	Low	Stock	Price	%	1726	Low	Stock	Price	%	1725	Low	Stock	Price	%	1724	Low	Stock	Price	%	1723	Low	Stock	Price	%	1722	Low	Stock	Price	%	1721	Low	Stock	Price	%	1720	Low	Stock	Price	%	1719	Low	Stock	Price	%	1718	Low	Stock	Price	%	1717	Low	Stock	Price	%	1716	Low	Stock	Price	%	1715	Low	Stock	Price	%	1714	Low	Stock	Price	%	1713	Low	Stock	Price	%	1712	Low	Stock	Price	%	1711	Low	Stock	Price	%	1710	Low	Stock	Price	%	1709	Low	Stock	Price	%	1708	Low	Stock	Price	%	1707	Low	Stock	Price	%	1706	Low	Stock	Price	%	1705	Low	Stock	Price	%	1704	Low	Stock	Price	%	1703	Low	Stock	Price	%	1702	Low	Stock	Price	%	1701	Low	Stock	Price	%	1700	Low	Stock	Price	%	1699	Low	Stock	Price	%	1698	Low	Stock	Price	%	1697	Low	Stock	Price	%	1696	Low	Stock	Price	%	1695	Low	Stock	Price	%	1694	Low	Stock	Price	%	1693	Low	Stock	Price	%	1692	Low	Stock	Price	%	1691	Low	Stock	Price	%	1690	Low	Stock	Price	%	1689	Low	Stock	Price	%	1688	Low	Stock	Price	%	1687	Low	Stock	Price	%	1686	Low	Stock	Price	%	1685	Low	Stock	Price	%	1684	Low	Stock	Price	%	1683	Low	Stock	Price	%	1682	Low	Stock	Price	%	1681	Low	Stock	Price	%	1680	Low	Stock	Price	%	1679	Low	Stock	Price	%	1678	Low	Stock	Price	%	1677	Low	Stock	Price	%	1676	Low	Stock	Price	%	1675	Low	Stock	Price	%	1674	Low	Stock	Price	%	1673	Low	Stock	Price	%	1672	Low	Stock	Price	%	1671	Low	Stock	Price	%	1670	Low	Stock	Price	%	1669	Low	Stock	Price	%	1668	Low	Stock	Price	%	1667	Low	Stock	Price	%	1666	Low	Stock	Price	%	1665	Low	Stock	Price	%	1664	Low	Stock	Price	%	1663	Low	Stock	Price	%	1662	Low	Stock	Price	%	1661	Low	Stock	Price	%	1660	Low	Stock	Price	%	1659	Low	Stock	Price	%	1658	Low	Stock	Price	%	1657	Low	Stock	Price	%	1656	Low	Stock	Price	%	1655	Low	Stock	Price	%	1654	Low	Stock	Price	%	1653	Low	Stock	Price	%	1652	Low	Stock	Price	%	1651	Low	Stock	Price	%	1650	Low	Stock	Price	%	1649	Low	Stock	Price	%	1648	Low	Stock	Price	%	1647	Low	Stock	Price	%	1646	Low	Stock	Price	%	1645	Low	Stock	Price	%	1644	Low	Stock	Price	%	1643	Low	Stock	Price	%	1642	Low	Stock	Price	%	1641	Low	Stock	Price	%	1640	Low	Stock	Price	%	1639	Low	Stock	Price	%	1638	Low	Stock	Price	%	1637	Low	Stock	Price	%	1636	Low	Stock	Price	%	1635	Low	Stock	Price	%	1634	Low	Stock	Price	%	1633	Low	Stock	Price	%	1632	Low	Stock	Price	%	1631	Low	Stock	Price	%	1630	Low	Stock	Price	%	1629	Low	Stock	Price	%	1628	Low	Stock	Price	%	1627	Low	Stock	Price	%	1626	Low	Stock	Price	%	1625	Low	Stock	Price	%	1624	Low	Stock	Price	%	1623	Low	Stock	Price	%	1622	Low	Stock	Price	%	1621	Low	Stock	Price	%	1620	Low	Stock	Price	%	1619	Low	Stock	Price	%	1618	Low	Stock	Price	%	1617	Low	Stock	Price	%	1616	Low	Stock	Price	%	1615	Low	Stock	Price	%	1614	Low	Stock	Price	%	1613	Low	Stock	Price	%	1612	Low	Stock	Price	%	1611	Low	Stock	Price	%	1610	Low	Stock	Price	%	1609	Low	Stock	Price	%	1608	Low	Stock	Price	%	1607	Low	Stock	Price	%	1606	Low	Stock
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COMMENT

For this relief
much thanks

Once City economists and businessmen had got over the shock of the weekend changes in the ERM, most started to play down their significance. After all, the cut in the Bundesbank's lombard rate, trumpeted on Sunday night, turned out to be a minimal quarter point. Little has changed in the objective circumstances facing business, apart from a minor recovery in the value of dollar-denominated assets, and the French have yet to vote on Maastricht. Even the 2.2 per cent rise in share prices was relatively modest, choked off perhaps by market-makers keener to protect their backs than to encourage business.

This grudging response misses the point. Little may have changed objectively in an ailing person's condition if a medical report reveals that the patient is not suffering from a life threatening disease, but that should have a profound effect on the patient's attitude and future plans. Until the Bundesbank realised it could not ignore life west of Aachen, the ailing British business patient had a genuine fear of some international financial spasm this autumn, akin to the stock market crash of 1987. That spectre is now disappearing, wide as the gap remains between European and American interest rates. There was a more tangible threat that the next movement in German interest rates might be upwards. That threat has virtually been extinguished. German rates have peaked and begun to fall, albeit future movements geared to German monetary conditions might be painfully slow.

A threat remains that British interest rates might need to be raised to support sterling in the ERM. Immediate market reaction suggested that the removal of lira weakness might even focus more attention on sterling at the bottom of the ERM. Yet even that possibility now looks insubstantial. On top of the foreign currency borrowing package, which will be used to buy £7.25 billion of sterling by the end of the financial year, there is a further quarter point of interest rate daylight between sterling and the mark. Moreover, the passing of an ERM realignment without sterling being devalued adds credibility to the pound and removes incentives to speculate. The odds have worsened against sterling bears.

Currency gyrations and vague threats of financial crashes or interest rate increases have undermined confidence again over the past two months, raising the possibility that the economy might even turn down again in the autumn. Consumers and businessmen can now wake from that nightmare and start getting on with the job again, confident of eventual recovery.

Soft ecu

Britain's hard ecu plan seems finally to have been buried. The face-saving ERM realignment formula had the lira being devalued by 3.5 per cent and the others revalued by 3.5 per cent against the ecu, the *numeraire* of the system. In reality, the lira was devalued by about 6 per cent, automatically cutting the value of the basket currency. The other currencies therefore rose by about 0.8 per cent against the ecu, making it flexible rather than soft. In the hard ecu plan, the value of the basket currency would always go up with the strongest currency in a realignment, acting as an anti-inflationary influence under the stern control of an independent monetary authority. This might be irrelevant if the French give the go-ahead to Maastricht and the Community, including Denmark and Britain, moves directly to a single currency. If not, the events of the weekend point to the ERM and the ecu remaining the product of political compromise.

EC's intervention lays bare Italy's
economic and political impotence

The realignment of
the lira is only
a phenomenon of a
much deeper economic
malaise, says
Wolfgang Münchau

Announcing a cut in German interest rates, even before the Bundesbank had the chance to rubberstamp the decision, must have been a rare pleasure for Giuliano Amato, Italy's prime minister. Unfortunately, this is about as much pleasure as he, his five-party coalition government, and his country will get out of the realignment in Europe's exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) and the German rate cut.

The 7 per cent de-facto devaluation of the Italian lira and the quarter-point cut in German interest rates will in the end have done little more than to relieve short-term market tensions, after unbearable pressures in the ERM at the end of last week. But Italy has paid a high price for the bail-out — the country is clearly willing to permit a great deal of outside intervention in its own policies to tackle deep-seated economic ills. The European Community has effectively imposed on Italy specific budgetary cuts as a price for this realignment.

Professor Amato's frantic proclamations yesterday only bear testimony to the sheer panic in his country. When he said "this is not a lira devaluation, this is a revolution of the mark", even his most ardent supporters would have found it difficult to believe him.

A senior Italian banker was able to muster a marginally greater degree of credibility a little later by conceding that this was "an honourable defeat". In reality, this was a humiliation that laid bare Italy's economic vulnerability and political impotence.

This humiliation was highlighted in Sunday night's stark statement by the EC Monetary Committee that contained none of the normal diplomatic "non-language" and made it clear that Italy had to fulfil certain conditions as its part of the bargain. "The Italian government, with the 1993 budget, and with other structural measures, especially in the areas of pension, public health and public-sector wages, will substantially curb the public deficit and reduce inflation," the statement said. The deadline for this budget is the end of this month, so Italy will have little alternative but to comply.

It is extraordinary to see that the EC is no longer satisfied to tell Italy what to do. It now tells the country how to do it. This may prove the shape of things to come once European monetary union becomes operative. It also serves as a *sotto voce*



A voice in the wilderness: Giuliano Amato's radical proposals were rejected by the Italian president

warning to everybody else if they decide not to toe the European line.

Here we have a case of an unelected EC committee not merely deciding monetary policy, but also telling one of its member states to cut its budget. Worse, the European monetary committee tells them to do so in specific areas: pension, health and wages. In terms of the erosion of national sovereignty, one can hardly think of a more blatant way of doing it.

At the same time, there can be no doubt that Italy is in dire need of radical measures to reform its economy. The country has a budget deficit of 11 per cent of gross domestic product and a national debt greater than its entire GDP. In that respect Italy is way out of line with France, Britain and Germany, and certainly out of line with the 3 per cent budget deficit ceiling as set out by the Maastricht treaty.

The hope that Italy can solve its problems on its own accord has consistently been disappointed. An attempt to apply radicalism from the

inside failed last week, when Professor Amato asked for special powers to run economic policy by decree, bypassing parliament. Such emergency powers are virtually unknown in the western world and are more reminiscent of the way some of eastern Europe's fledgling governments operate. But Professor Amato's proposal was rejected by the Italian president, Oscar Scalfaro, who declared that the proposal in its present form "could not carry my signature". Leading politicians of most parties have also denounced the plan.

Possibly this means, as Italian commentators suggested, that Professor Amato's reform-minded government may have to be replaced by an even more confusing rainbow alliance of disparate interests, which may also include the communists and perhaps even some of the *leghe*, the country's regional independence movements. In the end, it may matter only little who runs Italy. Italians appear to be resigned to accepting that they can-

not achieve economic reform on their own accord and need outside discipline.

The cliché that Italians favour the EC because it serves as their only hope to get a non-corrupt and effective government, is sadly only too correct.

It is no wonder, therefore, that financial markets remain sceptical about the lira and the country as a whole. This scepticism will certainly last until the French vote on the Maastricht treaty this Sunday. It might conceivably outlast a French "yes" vote. If the French vote "no", yesterday's realignment will only have acted as a precursor to another, much more fundamental realignment of ERM currencies, and Italy would once again be under severe pressure. The lira would again be devalued, and the dream of Italy being in the first league of those countries heading for European monetary union would evaporate.

For ordinary Italians, yesterday's news probably amounts to a mixed blessing. There is some hope that a

devaluation of the lira would improve the plight of the corporate sector and help create jobs. Yet they are only too aware that the devaluation is only the phenomenon of a much deeper and fundamental malaise in the economy, one that cannot be cured by the simple tokens of economic policy.

The contrast with the heyday of the 1980s could not be starker. Italians have always been unhappy about what many call the "political class", but this never mattered greatly as long as the mess created by Italian politicians was cancelled out by the unlikely success story of Italy's economy.

The most celebrated success story was the so-called *soprapasso* in the 1980s, when Italy claimed to have overtaken Britain in terms of GDP.

These days, Italians no longer talk about *il soprapasso* but about *la recessione*, about the large-scale job losses in virtually every sector, about the impact of emergency taxation, and about the special duties on everyday items.

The precise extent of the national disillusionment depends on the region. The *mezzogiorno*, the poor south, where hardship has become a fact of life, is not particularly hit, unlike the wealthy and industrial north. In some northern pockets, the change in sentiment is particularly severe.

Hardest hit of all, is perhaps the city of Turin, home of the giant Fiat conglomerate. Fiat has been one of the greatest casualties of the recession and the artificially high lira. In the 1980s, Fiat used to be close on the heels of Volkswagen as Europe's largest carmaker, but the Italians have since fallen back. The company lost market share not only elsewhere in Europe but, most ominously of all, also at home, where it had traditionally dominated. The result was a collapse in profits, mass redundancies and short-time working. For Turin, it was an almost deadly blow.

For Fiat and other Italian companies the 7 per cent devaluation will, in the short term, lead to an improvement in trade with the rest of the Community.

In a perfect world, this would mean that the price of a Fiat car could come down by an equivalent amount, thus giving the ailing carmaker a significant boost.

At the same time, the price of foreign goods in Italy would rise, thus improving Italy's competitiveness at home as well. Nevertheless, Professor Amato, his government, the opposition, and most Italian citizens probably know that devaluation is no more than a token gesture that does not even begin to address the underlying problems.

Most depressing of all is that whatever the answer to Italy's economic difficulties, this answer will be formulated, dictated and implemented by people whom Italians have not elected.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Stop spending a fortune trying
to rig the value of sterling

From Mr C. C. Tett

Sir, As any student of Economics will know, the value of the level of a public company's share price depends on the worth of that company. Were I chairman of a major public company who spent substantial amounts of the company's money propping up the share price, no doubt I would be facing a long spell at Her Majesty's pleasure. I have yet to understand why it is perfectly in order for the Treasury to spend thousands of millions of pounds and take ludicrous foreign exchange risks with our money in order to try to support the value of the pound.

The value of any currency is a reflection of the goods and services produced by that

country as measured against the money supply. The market automatically takes all these factors into account and it seems strange to me that a government dedicated to the operation of the law of the market in every sphere has chosen to rig the most important indicator of all, the value of sterling.

A free market means just that. Goods, services and currencies must be allowed to find their own level within the Community. Any attempt by politicians to rig any of these levels is doomed to failure. Yours faithfully, C. C. TETT, Wormstall, Wickham, Nr Newbury, Berkshire.

Heady price of
a London pint

From Mr John Willis

Sir, Your Business Comment (September 9) on the MMC report on pubs flatly states that the "huge difference between the price of a pint in the provinces and London" has to do with wages, rents and rates.

One gets weary of this glib excuse for the pub prices cruelly inflicted on Londoners. The difference does not apply to sugar from Sainsbury, shirts from Marks, deodorant from Boots, paint from Woolworths... it does not even apply to beer sold retail. Whatever the additional costs of trading in London may be, all these goods cost the same there as in the provinces.

Not so the pint in a pub. One can only conclude that Londoners have been so conditioned to paying more than the rest of the country for their beer, that they docilely continue to do so without protest. What a marketing triumph for the brewers and the licensed trade!

Yours faithfully, JOHN S. M. WILLIS, 57 Hillmorton Road, Rugby.

Taurus worry

From Dr J. D. Jackson

Sir, I have made an interest free loan to my son, the repayment of which is overdue. I do, however, hold his only share certificate of similar value as an informal collateral. With the advent of Taurus, would the chairman of the Stock Exchange please explain how I can prevent him selling this holding without my knowledge?

Yours faithfully, Dr J. D. JACKSON, 35 Queens Road, Blandford Forum, Dorset

Inappropriate illustration draws wrong
picture in environmental argument

From Professor G. Scott

Sir, The thesis outlined by Mr Hills (Business Letters, September 11) that the environmental impact of packaging should be assessed "from the cradle to the grave" is commendable, but the example he has chosen to illustrate it is singularly inappropriate.

Expanded polystyrene may be resource efficient for its primary purpose, but when it appears in the waste stream it is highly energy intensive to dispose of, due to its extremely low density.

Collection and transport for recycling is normally prohibitively expensive relative to the value of the recycled product (as Mr Hills points out, it is 98 per cent air) and in landfill it causes severe problems for the same reason. Furthermore, Mr Hills ignores completely the environmental impact of EPS when it

is discarded as litter. It is particularly visible and persistent in the sea and on the seashore where it is found in quantity due to its non-biodegradability.

Recycling, or for that matter any other means of collection and disposal, is simply not an option for both financial and energetic reasons and the only practical solution is to enhance its degradability by one of the available degradable plastics technologies; a policy which the British Plastics Federation has consistently opposed.

Yours faithfully, PROFESSOR G. SCOTT, MA, MSc, DSc, CChem, FRSC, FPRI, Consultant to the Polymer and Associated Chemical Industries, Green Ridge, Newby, Nr Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Hesketh drives
over to BZW

AFTER losing its top insurance research duo to Credit Lyonnais last summer, BZW, hitherto not involved in corporate broking in the insurance sector, is to develop a presence there with the appointment of insurance expert, Michael Hesketh, 43, a director at Warburg Securities. Warburg currently advises 75 per cent of the insurance sector, and Hesketh, who, at Warburg, combines corporate broking with his role as head of insurance research and sales, will concentrate on corporate broking at BZW from November. Hesketh says his combined roles at Warburg present too much conflict — "I know too many things I can't use" — and admits his move to BZW became possible when David Hudson and Alan Curtis, insurance analysts, joined CL. He was "out of sympathy", he says, with their "aggressive" stance. BZW has held off replacing them pending Hesketh's arrival. New appointments should follow.

Bearing up

THERE was a photo opportunity politicians would die for yesterday, but Sir Christopher Tugendhat, chairman of Abbey National, nearly fluffed it as he launched Abbey's 1992 children's charity appeal. Sir Christopher, who made a splash with his house sale tax loss scheme last month, was to be photographed holding his polar bears, the appeal's symbol, but forgot to hold his up for well known paparazzi man, Richard Young, Gloria Hunniford, the television per-



Tugendhat: appeal launch

sonality, arriving late from Paris, saved the day by thrusting her four bears into Tugendhat's arms, whereupon Young began snapping. The tabloids may not be competing to buy the photographs but Abbey says they will come in handy during the campaign when the fluffy toys will be raffled in Abbey branches, culminating in the "Joy to the World" concert at the Royal Albert Hall on December 15.

Changing partners

THE latest unlikely venue for blossoming City romance is the "downstairs room" at the Moorgate branch of Jeeves, the cleaners. Mike Brown, the manager, says there is now a seasoned "early morning squad" who drop off suits at 7.30 am and change into clean ones. The first changing room match has been made between a trader from Merrill Lynch and a City PA. "I can't tell you names but they've just got married," says Brown, who is obviously scoring a hit with the ladies. He reports 60 per cent of the suits he cleans

are women's, compared with 20 per cent a year ago. An inveterate label watcher, Brown says the current hot designer name is Tomasz Starzewski, also the new favourite of the Princess of Wales.

YES, traders did go a little crazy on Sunday when the Bundesbank dropped its bombshell. One American dealer in London wanted to telephone Boston to give the news to her American dealing partner but did not have his home number. So keen was she to be first to break the news that she contacted directory enquiries and rang all eight entries in Boston under his name, leaving the message with eight perplexed Bostonians that German interest rates were going down.

Paris match

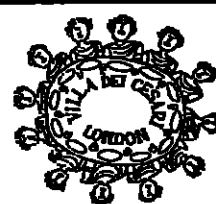
MEN in Short Trousers. The Frolicking Frogs and The Diplomatic Bags... not the programme for the next Cambridge Footlights but the teams from Prudential, American Express and the Foreign Office who hope to be at the Paris Hilton for Maastricht day on Sunday. Abbey National and Hill Samuel are among other City firms sending four-person teams, which will set off by car from the Barbican on Saturday in Oxford's "Great Paris Challenge". There are still places and every team that raises £250 for Oxfam, and gets to Paris in 24 hours, will have its *petit déjeuner* free at the Hilton. Those who raise £500 will also receive a free sea crossing, and those raising ten times their hotel bill has their bill paid. Contact Liz on 0865 313464.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15 1992

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PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily overall total and check this against the daily overall total and check this against the daily overall total.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Asahi Fisheries	Foods	
2	BAA	Transport	
3	Hamlyn	Banking	
4	Old Newspapers	Newspaper/Pub	
5	Pharmaco	Industrial	
6	Hwyco Wm	Building/Rd	
7	Wills Confectionery	Food	
8	Powell Duffryn	Transport	
9	Mowlem (J)	Building/Rd	
10	St Ives Grp	Paper/Print	
11	TNT	Transport	
12	GEC	Electrical	
13	Sedgwick	Insurance	
14	Kinross	Mining	
15	Allied Irish	Banking/Fin	
16	GRE	Insurance	
17	New Int	Newspaper/Pub	
18	Smith Whit A	Drugs/Pharm	
19	Smith Ind	Industrial	
20	Unilever	Food	
21	Blundell	Mining	
22	Procter & Gamble	Food	
23	Whitbread A	Breweries	
24	British Airways	Transport	
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Two readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mrs S. Bagg, of London SE4, and Mrs M. Harward, of Bath, each receive £2,000.

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Early gains halved

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began September 7. Dealings end September 18. Settlement day September 28. Forward gains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is re-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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The drive that inspired deprived areas



The Prince of Wales presents awards today to communities that have striven to improve their surroundings

THE Prince of Wales will present awards in Edinburgh Castle today to those who have laboured in humbler surroundings to improve others' lives. John Young writes.

The seventh annual Community Enterprise Scheme, sponsored by *The Times*, the Royal Institute of British Architects and Business in the Community, invited community groups to enter imaginative building projects. The prince is the scheme's patron. Most of the 87 entries in the nine categories were carried out on modest budgets, but they could show what can be achieved in the depths of a recession.

A feature of the scheme is the

support such projects receive from local people and the almost total absence of theft and vandalism. The assessors were particularly impressed by the enthusiasm on the Broadwater Farm estate, in Tottenham, north London, scene of riots in 1985 in which a police constable died. There are 16 category awards, 18 commendations and 39 honourable mentions. The Charles Douglas-Horne award, in memory of the late editor of *The Times*, goes to a project in Scotland, where there has been particular interest. The sponsors include the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland and Scottish Business in the Community.



Saved: the pond in Bethnal Green the council would have built over

The Community Enterprise Scheme has come a long way since it started in 1985 under the inspiration of the Prince of Wales. The idea was close to the heart of Charles Douglas-Horne, then editor of *The Times*, and the drive he and his companions applied caught the imagination of communities in deprived areas.

Today, the scheme's main sponsors are again *The Times*, the Royal Institute of British Architects and Business in the Community.

The idea is simple: to inspire, encourage and help people to help themselves. People know what they lack, but they do not possess the resources or the techniques. Mr Douglas-Horne and his pioneering colleagues saw that, given the advice and resources, the people have the spirit, imagination and determination to design and build what they need to improve their own built environment.

This is the seventh year of a great, glorious and invaluable competition. It is an exciting competition, it has produced magnificent improvements to the built environment, and it provides a joyous occasion in its annual awards day.

This year, for the first time, the awards day is in Edinburgh, not London. The scheme is the guest of the Scottish people, who have always supported it with enthusiasm. It is a fine thing that the prize-winners and those who have won commendations and honourable



Lord Scarman: "sheer guts"

mentions should gather with the sponsors and workers, in the company of the prince, to celebrate their achievements in the splendid setting of Edinburgh Castle. I mention a few of the great achievements so that the flavour of the competition may be savoured.

"Green Homes in Bethnal Green" is a classic triumph of a community defending its environment, which included a play space and nature area. The local authority wanted to build over this area. The people were furious, enlisted the help of the Tower Hamlets Environment Trust, and worked out a plan for a public square surrounded by affordable housing with a playground and park. To its great credit, the council accepted their plan.

Peckham Well College, West York-

shire, was founded in 1985 to offer residential education to people with reading and writing difficulties. The group was markedly successful in raising money from the private sector, the public sector, and voluntary organisations. The group, with splendid assistance from its architect, is the first UK body to provide a residential centre for basic education — in literacy, numeracy and English, for example.

The participants help to plan their courses, and the group has built its own college. The result, to quote the assessors: "A building which is the physical manifestation of a whole number of experiences, and of the creativity and sheer determination of the individuals who have come together through this project."

Chappel is an Essex village, of about 400 inhabitants. With the support of its neighbour, Wakes Colne, it has undertaken "an ambitious programme of environmental improvement, clearing out and restoring the village pond and building a play area". The assessors report: "The entire community of Chappel and Wakes Colne have been involved, and the final product is absolutely right for the site."

In addition, the children have built their own play equipment out of scrap material.

The scheme is a modern revelation of the spirit and sheer guts of our people. Long may it prosper.

LORD SCARMAN

Homes beat handicap

Top award goes to housing for disabled

Four mentally handicapped people are now enjoying a new life in their own purpose-built homes within the Aberdeen community after the completion of the Garthdee Project, which brought together several agencies under the co-ordination of the Cornerstone Society, a registered charity.

The concept to provide good-quality, ordinary housing within the community was relatively simple. However, designing the homes, keeping the cost within practical boundaries, making the complex as unobtrusive as possible and, above all, involving local residents and the householders themselves are not so easy. The project wins the Charles Douglas-Horne Award for the most outstanding entry and the Community Enterprise Award for Partnership.

Five years ago Cornerstone learned that Scottish Homes, formerly the Scottish Special Housing Association, was to redevelop accommodation and wanted to provide a



Home sweet home: friends gather to celebrate with the residents of the Garthdee Project

complex for people with mental handicaps and associated physical problems.

The design parameters of what became known as the "core" house in the project meant it should be as pleasant as that required by able-bodied people, the special facilities needed must not

mark the house out in an obtrusive way and, essentially, the house should be seen as belonging to the residents, four severely disabled people. Moreover, the cost would have to be low so that any authority could copy the idea elsewhere.

The Cornerstone Society formed a steering committee of representatives of the residents' parents, Grampian health board, the regional social work department, Aberdeen council, Scottish Homes and neighbours. That it succeeded so well is a tribute to their commitment.

KERRY GILL

Co-op puts people first

Residents create a community from a slum

People first, everything else second. This was the motto of the Ormiston People's Action Group when its members decided a housing co-operative was the way to regenerate Ormiston Crescent, Dundee. Kerry Gill writes.

Ormiston Crescent is within the Whitfield estate, which was regarded as "difficult to let" by the local council from its completion in the early 1970s. Most families had to climb four storeys to reach their front doors. To hang out washing they had to go back down the stairs, and there was nowhere for children to play safely.

In 1983 an action group was formed with the aim of forcing improvements. Although the council improved three blocks; more and more homes became empty. In 1987 the action group formed a housing co-operative.

The next year a multi-million-pound funding package was announced by the Housing Corporation, now Scottish Homes. Dundee



Happier days: now the children play on the housing estate at Ormiston Crescent

council gave the group a £10,000 start-up grant and helped to train the people in collecting rent arrears, letting houses and employing staff. In 1988 the group registered as a housing association.

The architects worked alongside tenants to draw up suitable designs, from wallpa-

per to the new pitched roofs. By December 1988 the people had bought their houses from the council and during the summer of 1990 the first two phases were completed.

The remaining 270 homes bought from the council were demolished and there is now a programme to build 124 new

houses with their own front and back gardens.

One member said: "This co-op is about a lot more than just buildings and concrete. It is about a community that has taken knock but has fought back to create a place where our children will be happy and proud to stay."

Line-up for the prince

LIST of winners of Community Enterprise Scheme Awards, 1992

Category 1. Housing Associations Charitable Trust Award for Housing, sponsored by the trust and Kingsley plc Green Homes in Bethnal Green, London E2; Ormiston People's Housing Co-operative, Dundee. Commendation: Chancel Court, London W1.

Category 2. Gulbenkian Award for Community Buildings, sponsored by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. Bulwark Leisure Centre, Selby, North Yorkshire; The Calthorpe Project Community Building, London WC1; Reading & District Irish Association Centre, Reading, Berkshire. Commendations: Addlestone Community Centre Extension Project, Addlestone, Surrey; Avonway Community Centre, Fordingbridge, Hampshire; Bromesbarrow Park Hall, Ludbury, Herefordshire; Gainsborough Park Community & Learning Centre, St Austell, Cornwall.

Category 3. National Children's Play Award, sponsored by the National Children's Play and Recreation Unit. Chappel Conservation Volunteers, Chelmsford, Essex. Commendations: Hackleton Playground Restoration Fund, Hackleton, Northamptonshire; Leroy & James Playpark, Hulme, Manchester; Remy Primary School Playground Improvement, London SW9.

Category 4. The Times Environment Award: The London Wildlife Garden Centre, London SE15. Commendations: Chiseldon to Marlborough Railway Path, Marlborough, Wiltshire; Garnethill Park, Glasgow; Hushoff Road Tunnel Project, Sheffield; North Shields Fish Quay Environment Improvement, North Shields, Tyne & Wear; St Thomas's Church Peace Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Category 5. The Community Enterprise Business Award, sponsored by United Biscuits (UK): Broadwater Community Enterprise Centre, London N17; East Midlands Community Venture, Thornhill, Middlesbrough.

Category 6. Community Enterprise Award for Training, sponsored by Marks & Spencer: Belcoo Enterprise Centre, Co. Fermanagh; East/West Women's Employment project, Middlesbrough.

Category 7. Rural Community Initiative Award, sponsored by the Post Office: Co-Chomman Bharraidh, Isle of Barra, Western,



Playtime at Chappel

Isles: Peckham Well College Project, Peckham, London SE15; The Nis Centre, Manchester; The Primrose Centre, London SW8. Commendations: Kingsmead Neighbourhood Scheme, Bath; Navarino Mansions Sheltered Accommodation, London E8.

Category 8. Community Enterprise Award for Partnership, sponsored by Kwik-Fit Holdings: The Cornerstone Garthdee Project, Aberdeen. Commendations: Church Street Refurbishment Project, Shipley, West Yorkshire; St Anne's Church Redevelopment, London W1; Woolwich Community Youth Club & Community Facilities, London SE18.

Category 9. RIBA Community Architecture Award: The Nis Centre, Manchester; The Primrose Centre, London SW8. Commendations: Kingsmead Neighbourhood Scheme, Bath; Navarino Mansions Sheltered Accommodation, London E8.

The Charles Douglas-Horne

Award for the most outstanding entry overall from the nine categories: Cornerstone Garthdee Project, Aberdeen.

Honourable Mentions (by category): 1. Bearded Memorial Drive, London W1; Hector Peterson Court, Liverpool; Sydenham Housing Co-operative, London E1; Korczak House Children's Home, London SW2; The Manor (a home for mentally handicapped children), Peterborough; Park Hill Housing Co-operative, London SW4; Ravenscroft Rebuild Housing Co-operative, Kirby, Merseyside; The Roberts Centre, Portsmouth; St David Road Housing Project, Sheffield.

2. Aighallachmhuide Community Centre, Co. Fermanagh; The Cornerstone Community Centre, Hove, East Sussex; Maerdy Community Centre, Rhondda, Mid Glamorgan; Spangmoor Community Project, Co. Tyrone; The Vera Fisher Hall, Thames Ditton, Surrey.

3. Allhallows Conservation Play Park, Carlisle, Cumbria; Amersham Children's Playground, Amersham, Buckinghamshire; Grange First School Playground, London W5.

4. Arch Close Bank Enhancement Scheme, Long Ashton, Avon; Herring's Nature Trails Project, Belcoo, Co. Fermanagh; The Boatouse, Edinburgh; Castlederg Regeneration & Improvement Scheme, Co. Tyrone; Meron Abbey Mills, London SW10; Nubia Street Neighbourhood Park, Belfast; St Aidan's Nature Garden, Belfast; The Sedgwick Aqueduct Project, Sedgwick, Cumbria; Snakey Path Environmental Improvement Scheme, Belfast; Tenby Bandstand, Tenby, Dyfed; King's Cross Railway Lands Group, London.

5. Overall Clothing, Newcastle upon Tyne.

6. Mornington Enterprises Community Work Project, Belfast.

7. Beaumont Museum Trust, Beaumont, Dorset; Brook Farm Community Association, Malvern, Worcestershire; The Harrow Inn, Marlborough, Wiltshire; The New Longstock Village Hall, Stockbridge, Hampshire; Totnaw 2000, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan; Upton Village Hall Extension, Newark, Nottinghamshire; Youth Route 70, Douglas, Lanarkshire.

9. Hunters Hall Housing Co-operative, Edinburgh.

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LAW TIMES

Is it fair to blame lawyers for mortgage cheating? Two experts suggest ways of solving this growing problem

Building barriers to fraud

A number of mortgage fraudsters have been jailed in recent weeks. There will be more. After the controls on building societies were relaxed by the Building Societies Act 1986, the organisations were able to compete with banks in providing funds for commercial loans. They became prey to frauds, particularly in the leisure and retirement home industries.

Fraud has probably always been associated with domestic and small-scale business secured borrowing — there have been optimistic valuations and inflated figures for incomes and profits. In a stable market most of this goes undetected. In a rising market the lender often unknowingly profits. In a falling market the fraud tends to become exposed. In worse times the receding tide shows up an amazing amount of wreckage. The mortgages cannot even sell their security.

Societies then wonder how values could have placed such values on many of these properties and businesses. Outsiders wonder how societies could have lent with such abandon on the valuations they were given. Enquiries into the conveying quality of some solicitors have embarrassed the profession.

The more brazen civil and criminal cases are now coming to trial. In the spring, several sets of borrowers, solicitors and valuers were jailed for between 12 and 24 months. In midsummer, more went down.

In formal terms, the blame is being spread, and the consequences are far-reaching. The sums are staggering. Indemnity premiums are shooting up, and so are contributions to professional bodies' compensation funds.

Building societies largely withdrew from commercial lending. Having stocked up with extra banking staff, they are now laying them off. The guarantee insurers' companies, which have suffered badly, have ceased their former cosy relationships with the societies and refused to pay without at least questioning whether a society's procedures have been followed.



Ken Pyne

The societies went into commercial lending without proper preparation. Decision makers at reputable societies with many years' solid experience, in residential lending, seem not to have passed on the message that documentation they had been using in that sector would not be suitable for commercial lending.

There is, of course, little point in having a bricks-and-mortar charge over a small bottle where, to preserve the value, you must be able to deal with the liquor licence, the fixtures, fittings, furniture and equipment and goodwill, including the right to continue using the name under which the business has operated, and be able to give receivers suitable powers.

There are many cases in which standard form residential private borrower security and other documentation has

been sent to solicitors for completion by companies and business partnerships, and residential conveying solicitors have not noticed or tried to adapt it. Often they have not registered charges at the Companies Registry.

Company and insolvency lawyers have subsequently waded over the task of making sense of documents that did not begin to contemplate the transactions for which they were used.

The societies were not the only ones to blame. There is hardly an established estate agency without experts to give evidence in cases against valuers, and the lawyers instructed by the Solicitors' Indemnity Fund are doing well. The solicitors' compensation fund, facing claims totalling £30 million, has seen nothing yet.

Remedies are now being examined. Society advisers are having to tread warily in the minefield of inconsistent rights. Measures of damages are being fought over, and the boundaries of contributory negligence are going to be tested. The theoretical capabilities of "the conveying solicitor" are being measured against judge-perceived standards. The conduct of valuers against the guidelines of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, and the control of estate agencies over their own staff is being looked at. Issues of vicarious liability for fraud are rife.

There will be tough arguments with insurers. The Court of Appeal was asked last month to determine the limits of interim payment applications in tricky fraud cases.

With luck, if the societies return to commercial lending,

for a time at least there will be much-improved methods of assessment and procedures. Insurance agencies and other economies may determine whether they will continue to instruct small firms of solicitors to act for them and their borrowers, and on what terms, and generally the scope for fraud should diminish.

However, as the economic tide continues to fall, more frauds will come to light. The societies were not ready for them when they began to surface in 1989, but they should now be better equipped to press their cases against those professionals and their insurers who have done so well out of them over the years.

In recent weeks, Abbey National and the Halifax, the two largest building societies, have issued, or are proposing, revised instructions to solicitors on their panels, many of them to combat mortgage fraud. Some of these steps merely stress vigilance but Abbey National seeks verification of the identity of the prospective borrower and guarantors before exchange of contracts.

Solicitors are trying to put their own house in order. The Law Society has issued a "green paper" to help solicitors to spot potential fraud. The society's recent consultation paper, "The Cost of Default", and the question of a possible limit to the amount of compensation the profession is prepared to pay to financial institutions will be main topics at its conference next month.

There are doubts, however, whether hitting sole practitioners — held responsible for much of the fraud — is more than a distraction. Stronger standards, particularly among lawyers and valuers, are needed. If they are to retain credibility as professionals, they will have to carry on bearing responsibility for errant members.

The unanswered question is whether insurers will continue to help them to do so, and on what terms.

JEREMY LE M. SCOTT

The author, a partner in Mackenzie Mills, the London law firm, specialises in civil fraud and corporate insolvency.

The lenders must be on their guard

MORTGAGE fraud is big business. Estimates of its extent vary but some analysts claim that as many as 10 per cent of mortgage applications are fraudulent and that up to a £1 billion has been lent to fraudsters. These are not just hole-in-the-wall types operating from accommodation addresses but professional people. In a recent case in Liverpool Crown Court, four solicitors were among the 16 jailed for their part in a £1.8 million fraud.

This is all good entertaining stuff because, except for a politician or a royal caught sucking the wrong toes, there is nothing the public likes more than professionals being caught out. If you leave aside the image of smug solicitors being dragged out of what the media always describe as "luxury homes" to go to jail, what does it all mean? Are solicitors involved in the 10 per cent of fraudulent mortgages? Does this mean that 10 per cent of solicitors are

fraudsters? I think not. First, as City bankers have found there is the question of definition. What is one man's standard business practice is another's fraud. Mortgage "frauds" can be divided into three broad categories, only the first two of which are likely to result in prosecution. There is the out and out fraud where there is no intention to pay any of the money back. The property may not exist and if it does it will be mortgaged many times over and those involved disappear when enquiries are made. Then there is the fraud involving a genuine property but false details of the applicants on the mortgage application form. The purpose is to enable people with bad credit records to buy a property, which is then let.

The lender is blissfully unaware that the house has been illegally subdivided into hovellets, which have been rented out. As long as the mortgage is paid the lender may continue in such blissful ignorance. It is only if the borrower runs short of tenants and defaults on the mortgage that the lender will find out.

The last and most difficult category is the mortgage application with fraudulent aspects. It is different from the other two categories because the borrower is genuine and intends to buy the house for his own use. There may be reasons why the lender would not lend if the true circumstances were known. The commonest reasons are a bad credit record or insufficient income to meet the criteria. Income may be exaggerated on lies about previous loan defaults.

Another common deceit and one that, unlike the others, does involve the know-

ledge and assistance of a solicitor, is the "repairs allowance". This dubious practice involves the contract for the sale of the house stating that the seller will on completion of the sale refund the buyer part of the purchase price. For example, on a £100,000 sale only £90,000 might change hands, although the transfer deed would show the price as £100,000. If a lender had agreed to lend 95 per cent of the purchase price then the borrower would effectively have a mortgage of more than 100 per cent.

There is nothing dishonest about the arrangement if everybody concerned knows exactly what is happening. However, it is a characteristic of the repairs allowance scheme that the lender is not told what is going on.

In the 1980s heyday of free and easy lending, lenders were desperate to lend in what seemed to be a never-ending housing boom. Often a building society manager would make it clear that he did not want to know all the details lest he have to refuse to lend. The justification for sloppy lending practices was that house prices were going up all the time and even if a loan went sour, the property could readily be sold at a substantial profit and nobody would suffer.

The days of the 100 per cent mortgage and no references taken up are gone now and there is a new mood of caution in the mortgage market. The big insurers in the mortgage indemnity market have tightened their terms and are no longer prepared to underwrite reckless lending. The optimistic belief is that the worst is over.

My own experience is that some of the big lenders are still blind when it comes to dubious practices. This is usually because lending procedures are operated by junior staff who rarely look at the overall picture.

One of my partners was acting for a building society in a possession action when he noticed that the society had lent nearly 10 per cent more than the original value of the property. No mortgage repayments had ever been made. Smelling fraud, he telephoned the society only to be told that the loan was all right because it was less than three times the borrower's stated income.

Mortgage fraud is a large problem. Tackling it requires a concerted effort. It is no use the lenders expecting everybody else to detect it. They need to train their own staff to be much more alert. In the short term this may increase the cost of borrowing. In the long term it is bound to reduce it.

The author is a practising solicitor in Chyd.

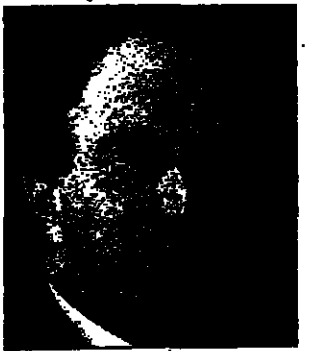


PATRICK STEVENS

Lords take a liberal turn

THE NEW more liberal slant of the House of Lords, the highest court in the land, was firmly established last week with the appointment of the Court of Appeal judge, Sir Harry Woolf, aged 59, as a law lord. Lord Justice Woolf, whose report last year after the Strangeways prison riots criticised the prison system, has a reformist streak.

His move on October 1 into the vacancy left by Lord Ackner is the fourth appointment to the Lords within 12 months. Last autumn, Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson and Sir Gordon Slynn, both also regarded as on the judiciary's liberal wing, were promoted, along with Lord Justice Mustill.



Reform: Lord Justice Woolf

The appointments are certain to mean a shift in the tenor of judgments from the law lords on moral and public law issues, with greater account taken, for instance, of

the European Convention on Human Rights, which Sir Harry strongly believes should be incorporated into domestic UK law. Lord Justice Woolf, whose background is in public law, was Treasury counsel for many years before becoming a High Court judge and has done much to develop the burgeoning area of judicial review, the right of the citizen to challenge overweening decisions by government bodies.

He has also promoted the idea of a director of civil proceedings with power to initiate or sponsor cases when it is in the public interest to have the courts scrutinise official decisions.

One of the most popular

and friendly senior judges, he was tipped to succeed Lord Donaldson as Master of the Rolls, a post that has gone to Lord Justice Bingham, his Court of Appeal colleague. However, Lord Justice Woolf will be well suited to formulating law and, increasingly, social policy, from the House of Lords.

David Pannick, QC, a public law specialist, said: "He and others will bring a more open-minded willingness to decide questions by reference to European law and to the more liberal standards that administrative law has been developing over the last decade."

FRANCES GIBB

Louis's last word

JUSTINIAN, the eminence grise of legal columnists, is being axed. Sir Louis Blom-Cooper says he has written the *Financial Times* column for more than 30 years and it was felt that was enough. Sir Louis, knighted in the Queen's birthday honours, is not disheartened. He has so much other work that the column was becoming harder to fit in. FT sources say the change is part of the redesign of the Monday paper, but "Louis will still be welcome to do the occasional piece".

Meanwhile, Sir Louis, who has been sitting as a deputy High Court judge, is still chairing the Mental Health Act Commission. However, that is only until the end of 1993. "I am really looking around for gainful employment," Sir Louis says.

One suggestion is that he should become chairman of the Press Complaints Commission at the end of 1993 if Lord McGregor of Durris does not want to continue after his three years.

Stars come out

A STAR-STUDDED cast was on show at the Law Society when the centre of advanced litigation (Coal) last week held its first litigation summer school. Among legal celebrities lined-up were Roger

Pannone, the vice-president elect of the Law Society, Michael Napier of Erwin Mitchell, Judge Michael Cook, Joel Henning, the senior vice-president of management consultants Hillbrand, and Professor Richard Susskind, the expert commentator.

Bringing together more than 30 such high-flyers was a coup for Coal, which is run by the Nottingham Law School. For Professor Nigel Savage, it marked the culmination of years of investment to put the law school, part of the old polytechnic, on the map.

Now that the poly has a university title, the school can soar to new heights, untrammelled by any anxieties about second-class status.

Peer judgment

EVER since John Taylor, the solicitor and MP, was appointed a minister in the Lord Chancellor's Department, solicitors have been speculating on what he was like as a practising solicitor. Was he a high-powered international tax specialist with a razor-sharp mind?

In the Criminal Law Solicitors' Association newsletter, Derek French, a Birmingham solicitor, reminisces about seeing Taylor as a rather uninspiring criminal advo-

cate at "such major venues" as Southall magistrates' court. Mr French has been qualified for long enough to be eligible for judicial appointment. I wonder whether the Lord Chancellor's Department will drop any hints as to his suitability for the bench.

No cigar

A LUNCH hosted by Frere Cholmeley as part of last week's UK European Presidency conference in Westminster gave Tristan Garel-Jones, the foreign office minister, a platform from which to berate the Euro-sceptics on both sides of the Commons.

His ability to talk tough while eating fast made a favourable impression on his dining companions, mostly Frere's clients. Should the French say Non to Maastricht, Mr Garel-Jones is clearly preparing to take the

fight vigorously into the opposing camp.

The invitation from Tim Razzall, Frere's chief executive, to the Tory minister was generous, given that he is a long-standing stalwart of the Liberal Democrats' national executive. However, Mr Razzall made it clear that Euro-enthusiasm is *de rigueur* at his law firm.

Not quite such a *Communitaire* spirit was shown by the Prime Minister's waiting staff. Service between meals was as slow in coming as an EC directive and the request by Herr Gerhart Baum, a member of the German Bundestag, for a cigar was greeted with a blunt No.

Party time

WITH summer over and everyone back at work London lawyers are free to resume their social life. Last Thursday two choice parties were held in the City. Jarvis & Bannister hosted their "Night in the Glasshouse" in the Barbican Centre's conservatory while Waltons & Morse launched David Wainman's new book on pensions at Painters' Hall.

But it is predicted that some of the impending big office moves, such as Clifford Chance, are going to be decidedly low-key affairs. When the big City law firms finally decide to put the lid on their entertainments, we shall know that times really are hard.

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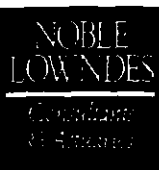
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LEGAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Excluding confessions from jury Statement admitted through fear

Regina v McKenna

Before Lord Taylor of Gossforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Roch

[Judgment July 24]

Cases which depended solely or mainly on confessions had given rise to miscarriages of justice and, therefore, a trial judge in the interests of justice was to take the initiative and withdraw from the jury a case in which the prosecution depended wholly on confessions, the defendant suffered from a significant degree of mental handicap and the confessions were unconvincing to the point where the jury properly directed could not properly convict on them.

Lord Taylor of Gossforth, Lord Chief Justice, so stated when giving a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by David Stuart McKenna, aged 38, against conviction at the Central Criminal Court (Judge Richardson and a jury) of manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility on each of two counts charging him with murder.

His appeal against conviction on two counts of arson with intent to endanger life was dismissed. He had pleaded guilty to a separate indictment charging two counts of unlawful sexual intercourse, against which he did not appeal.

The sentence on each of the convictions of manslaughter, arson and unlawful sexual intercourse was detention in Rampton Hospital without limit of time under sections 37 and 41 of the Mental Health Act 1983. Thus it remained in force.

Mr Geoffrey Robertson, QC and Mr Phillip Waller for the appellant, Mr John Bevan for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the case, which had an unusual history, raised difficult problems concerning the appellant's mental state and his numerous confessions.

The Crown's case in respect of murder in 1984 of a woman aged 76 and in 1985 of a woman aged 76 depended wholly on confessions by the appellant.

He confessed also to 12 other killings, none of which the Crown believed he had committed.

He was in the borderline sub-normal range of intelligence and had been admitted to a hospital as mentally handicapped when he was 14 years old.

He was capable of telling a true story but intended to manipulate the system, was determined to stay in Rampton and might say what would achieve that result.

In 1987 a doctor had considered the appellant unfit to plead to the charges of murder, arson and unlawful sexual intercourse because he was incapable of distinguishing between fact and fantasy.

In 1990 the doctor's view of the appellant changed on the narrow basis that he then knew he had not committed killings even though he still felt he did commit them.

The main ground of appeal was that the jury's verdicts were unsafe and unsatisfactory having regard to the unreliability of his confes-

sions and absence of other evidence of guilt.

His Lordship said that the question whether the circumstances raised doubts as to the reliability of any confession was a question of fact and, normally, would be for jury decision.

Nevertheless, applying the guidance in *R v Galbraith* ([1981] 1 WLR 1039), their Lordships considered that where (i) the prosecution case depended wholly upon confessions, (ii) the defendant suffered from a significant degree of mental handicap and (iii) the confessions were unconvincing to a point where a jury properly directed could not properly convict upon them, then the judge, assuming that he had not excluded the confessions earlier, should withdraw the case from the jury.

The confessions might be unconvincing, for example, because they lacked the incriminating details to be expected of a guilty and willing confessor, or because they were inconsistent with other evidence, or because they were otherwise inherently improbable.

Cases depending solely or mainly on confessions, like cases depending upon identification evidence, had given rise to miscarriages of justice.

Their Lordships were, therefore, of the opinion that when the three conditions above applied at any stage of the case, the judge should, in the interests of justice, take the initiative and withdraw the case from the jury.

The principal issue on the appeal had been whether the appellant's confessions to the two killings did reveal special know-

ledge such as could only have been known by the killer.

Putting together doubts about the confessions, fresh evidence and flawed passages in the summing up, their Lordships had no doubt that the jury's verdicts on the manslaughter counts had to be regarded as unsafe and unsatisfactory.

There was no reason to conclude that the jury's verdicts on the arson counts were unsafe or unsatisfactory.

In the result the appeals against conviction for manslaughter were allowed, those in relation to arson were dismissed and, in those circumstances, the overall sentence remained the same.

Solicitors: Bryan & Armstrong, Mansfield; CPS, Central Courts Branch.

Benefit powers

Secretary of State for Social Security v Scully

Section 93(1)(b) of the Social Security Act 1975, read according to its ordinary and natural meaning, plainly intended to leave it to the Secretary of State for Social Security to make all determinations relevant to the contribution conditions as set out in Part I of paragraph 1 of Schedule 3 to the 1975 Act and so deprived the social security commissioner of jurisdiction to decide an issue which related to the claimant's entitlement or otherwise to sickness benefit.

The Court of Appeal (Lord

Regina v Ashford and Tenderden Justices, Ex parte Hilden

Before Lord Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Popplewell [Judgment July 23]

A witness's statement could be admitted in evidence in criminal proceedings under section 23 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 on the ground that she did not give evidence through fear, even though she had already entered the witness box and had started to answer questions.

A justice could satisfy herself that a witness was not giving evidence through fear by her own observation of the witness's demeanour.

It was not necessary for the justice to have read the witness's statement before deciding whether

it should be admitted, it was sufficient for her to be aware of its contents.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, dismissing Kevin John Hilden's application for an order of certiorari to quash the decision of an Ashford and Tenderden Justice, sitting as an examining magistrate, on July 3, 1992 to commit him for trial on charges of causing grievous bodily harm with intent and false imprisonment.

Mr Louis French for the applicant, Mr Geoffrey Cox for the justice, Mr John Hilden for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE McCOWAN said that at the committal proceedings the witness, who was the applicant's girlfriend, had gone into the witness box and taken the oath. In answer to questions she had said that she could not remember what had happened or that she had no comment.

The justice had formed the firm impression that she was affected by fear and that that explained her refusal to answer questions.

The prosecution had made an application under section 23(3)(b) of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 for her statement to be admitted on the ground that she was not giving oral evidence through fear. The witness had not herself said that she was in fear.

The justice had decided that in the interests of justice the statement should be admitted. The justice was not shown the statement during her deliberations.

The applicant submitted that for section 23 to bite, the court had to have before it a witness who did

not utter a single word of evidence. He argued that the section was aimed at those who would not come into court at all. Once a witness came into court and took the oath, anything that was said thereafter amounted to oral evidence.

The question was whether the witness had given oral evidence. His Lordship could not accept the submission that a witness must literally utter not one word, must stand there completely mute, in order for section 23 to take effect.

In his Lordship's judgment the provision meant that a witness must not have given evidence of significant relevance to the case.

The witness had clearly given no evidence of significant relevance to the case. In no real sense did the evidence she had put before the court go in any way to deciding the issues in the case.

The applicant further argued that either the witness had to say that she was not giving evidence through fear or there had to be evidence from another witness, usually a police officer, that he had seen the witness and concluded that she was in fear.

His Lordship could not understand why that would be better evidence than the justice seeing the witness and forming her own view that the witness was in fear.

The applicant further argued that the justice had not had regard to the contents of the statement before making her decision, as was required by section 26 of the Act.

That argument was only correct if the words "have regard to" meant that the justice had to see and read the statement. In his

Lordship's judgment they did not mean that. They meant that she had to be apprised of the contents of the statement. It was clear that the justice had been told by the prosecution what the contents of the statement were.

MR JUSTICE POPPLEWELL said that he agreed but that he had reached the same conclusion by a different route.

In his Lordship's judgment, section 23 was capable of two interpretations. The first was the applicant's interpretation that section 23 applied where a witness gave no oral evidence.

His Lordship did not accede to the submission that "oral evidence" in section 23(b) meant material oral evidence. It seemed to his Lordship that any oral evidence constituted such "oral evidence".

The second interpretation required the insertion of the word "some".

If a witness started giving some oral evidence without fear but was prevented from giving further evidence through fear, that was a person who "does not give oral evidence through fear".

There being an ambiguity in the section the question then arose as to which interpretation was to be preferred. It seemed to his Lordship that there was no logic in the applicant's contention as it would make total nonsense of a provision aimed at preventing a witness's evidence not getting to court through fear.

Solicitors: Bradleys, Ashford; Kingsford Flower & Paine, Ashford; CPS, West Kent.

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Driving ambition that sparked Williams split



Frank Williams
Born: April 16, 1942 Liverpool.
Wife: Virginia. Children: three.
Home: Newbury. Formula One
record: first race, Argentina,
1975; world constructors'
championship, 1980, 1981,
1986, 1987. He has been
paralysed from the shoulders
down since a car crash in 1986.
He was created a CBE in 1987.

NIGEL Mansell's intention to retire from Formula One motor racing, just four weeks after he had secured the world championship, has provided a sad and distasteful ending to what should have been the most pleasurable of the six seasons he has spent driving for Frank Williams's team. But perhaps it was inevitable. The plain fact is that, much as Mansell and Williams have needed each other to fuel their respective ambitions, and despite their mutual admiration for each other's professional achievements, as people they have barely tolerated each other.

Long ago, Williams said that while Mansell was "magic" in a racing car, he was "a pain in the backside" out of it. While Mansell has never forgiven Williams for what he felt to be his unsympathetic reaction to the back-wrenching practice accident in Japan which effectively ended Mansell's 1987 championship challenge. Formula One is no environment for the faint-hearted. If you have a burning ambition not only to win but also to keep on winning — ambitions in which Mansell and Williams have always been firmly united — you have to bring to the job some fairly uncompromising qualities.

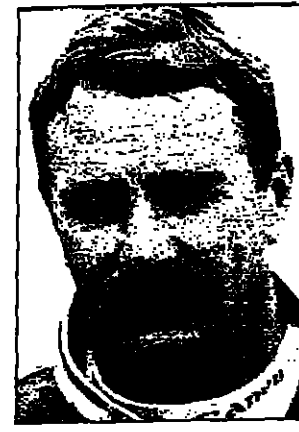
John Blunsden on the conflict between Nigel Mansell, the Formula One world champion, and the Frank Williams racing team

pointment? Why, when he is involved in contractual matters, should he believe that fair play and reasonableness will prevail over all else? Williams did not reach the highest echelons of motor racing through being over-concerned with the niceties. When he entered the sport he brought with him little more than a burning passion for it, an already rapidly developing skill at wheeling and dealing, and the ability to extricate himself from one financial crisis after another.

Mansell, too, climbed the racing ladder the hard way, hurting himself physically and suffering financial strains before he was able to prove his worth and attract backing. Mansell's progression into Formula One, through the Lotus team, solved his financial problems but not his personal ones: his incessant moan that, if only he could get the job done, won him few friends in the Lotus pit area. After the death of Colin Chapman, he became undervalued by the team's new management, hence his move to Williams in 1985.

Frank Williams knew what he was taking on — a potential race-winner, and that was all that mattered. In 1992 and beyond, it is still all that matters, just as for a driver all that matters is to be driving the best car. That is why Mansell, Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost would all like to be leading the Williams team next year — note the word "leading". This has been the seed of the recent discontent. Having the best car in 1992, and with a reasonable expectancy of still having it in 1993, Williams has been in a strong negotiating position. This makes it seem all the more remarkable — and out of character — that as long ago as last February he should have allowed the temporarily out-of-work Prost to dictate terms for a 1993 drive, which among other demands expressly excluded Senna from the other car.

This suggests that Williams was confident that Mansell would sign on again, on whatever terms were offered to him, to drive alongside Prost. If so, it was a considerable misjudgment. Mansell, who had found Prost to be such a disruptive influence during their time together with Ferrari, eventually convinced himself that he could live with the Frenchman a second time around, but the inconvenience of doing so would cost Williams dearly. As the defending champion, Mansell asked for a lot of money and a lot of fringe benefits. After a lot of hard bargaining, a deal was eventually struck last month, or so he thought. But Senna's offer to drive, if not for nothing, but for a lot less money, caused Williams to move the financial goalposts.



Nigel Mansell
Born: August 8, 1953, Upton-on-Severn. Wife: Rosanna. Children: Chloe (ten), Leo (seven), Greg (four). Homes: Isle of Man, Florida. Formula One record: first race, Austria, 1980; 178 starts, 29 wins; world champion, 1992; runner-up, 1986, 1987, 1991. He was created an OBE last year.

American circuit lures world champion

Mansell poised to join top Indy Car team

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE IN NEW YORK AND NORMAN HOWELL IN MONZA

NIGEL Mansell, the Formula One world motor racing champion, could sign this week for the Newman-Haas Indy Car team. Mansell, the British driver who started the sport when he announced on Sunday that he was quitting the Williams team and retiring from Formula One, has been talking with Carl Haas, partner with the actor Paul Newman in the Newman-Haas team. Haas said yesterday from his headquarters at Lincolnshire, Illinois: "Nigel and I have known each other a long time and I have had conversations with him about the possibility of his driving for us. He has said he wants to look at Indy Car racing and, if you put two and two together, there aren't many teams he could be talking to. "We would be very excited about his joining the team and it would be good for motor racing over here as well. But I would add that I have been

talking to 25 different drivers." But, Haas added, his talks with Mansell were in "quite a different category" from the rest. One of the "25 different drivers" is Martin Brundle, who has had experience of American racing with Jaguar in the sports car championship. Brundle has been dropped by Benetton after an outstanding season in Formula One. There are firm reports that Mansell has offered at least \$4.5 million to drive for Newman-Haas. Mansell has a home in Florida and is attracted by the American way of life and the challenge of racing on Indy-style oval stadium tracks as well as street circuits. Haas is in no doubt that, despite Mansell's lack of experience of American tracks, he would have no trouble following the path set by another Formula One world champion, Emerson Fittipaldi, who was highly successful in Indy

Car racing. "Mansell is a great racing driver and great racing drivers can race on anything, anywhere," Haas said. Among other British drivers who have made brief but triumphant forays across the Atlantic are Jim Clark and Graham Hill, both of whom won the Indianapolis 500. In the statement he read out on Sunday, Mansell was careful to point out that he was retiring only from Formula One and mentioned Indy Cars as a viable alternative. In the Indy Car fraternity, it is felt that if Mansell turns down the Newman-Haas offer, then the drive will go to Al Unser Jr, who only this year at Silverstone expressed his desire to move to Formula One. At the Williams team's headquarters at Didcot, the defences have gone up against the onslaught of criticism from the public and the press; all calls were diverted to the company which handles its public relations. This same company has advised Williams not to put a press conference but to put out a statement instead.

Williams, whether in this statement or soon after, will have to clarify the positions of Alain Prost, who is believed to have reached an agreement with the team some time ago, and of Ayrton Senna, who has said that he will drive for nothing for the world championship.

There is some dispute on whether Prost has a clause in his contract that excludes Senna, but the point is that immediately after the Portuguese grand prix, in two weeks' time, the new 1993 cars will begin testing and Williams will have to put someone in that car in Portugal.

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RIGHT OF REPLY

Nigella Lawson
considers the
feminist debate so far
Life & Times, page 1



TALES FROM THE CITY

New York cabbie
Iva Pekárková finds
a story in every fare
Life & Times, page 5



FLIGHT OF FANCY

Win a pair of tickets
to a mystery US
destination
Life & Times, page 4

INSIDE Mrs Mellor offers support

Judith Mellor (below), the wife of David Mellor, the herbage secretary, yesterday went to the High Court to support her friend Mona Bauwens in her libel action against The People newspaper. She said: "I am just supporting my friend Mona. I planned to come here today anyway."

Mrs Mellor was not called upon to give evidence but she heard that her



husband has been subpoenaed and may be obliged to appear.

She also heard Mrs Bauwens tell the jury that she had been made physically sick by the newspaper coverage of the case concerning the Mellor family's holiday with her at her rented villa in Marbella during the Gulf war. Page 3

Vaccine alert

Studies by doctors in Nottingham led to the withdrawal of two brands of vaccine to prevent rubella, measles and mumps in children, after they found links to a mild form of viral meningitis. But doctors fear the alternative MMR-11 vaccine may not be as effective.

Dr Aidan Macfarlane, director of public health at Oxford Health Authority, said only 50 reports of viral meningitis had occurred in more than four million children treated since the MMR vaccines were introduced in 1988. Page 5

Flood stand-by

Six hundred thousand people in the city of Sukkur in Pakistan's Sind province, where severe flooding is expected tomorrow, have been put on stand-by for evacuation. The government has rescued half a million people. Page 13

Pit closes

British Coal is to close a coal pit near Stoke-on-Trent, one of the most modern in the country but still which is losing £20 million a year, with the loss of 1,400 jobs. Page 19

Malik tops

Salim Malik and Courtney Walsh topped, respectively, the batting and bowling averages for the first-class cricket season which finished yesterday. Page 30

Faldo rated

Mitchell Platts, golf correspondent, rates Nick Faldo the most complete player since the legendary Ben Hogan. Page 32

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City fears rise in UK interest rate while government still rules out devaluation



Major calls off Spanish trip as pound plunges

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, GEORGE SIVELL AND TOM WALKER

MOUNTING economic and political difficulties crowded in on the government last night as sterling fell to its lowest close against the mark since joining the European exchange-rate mechanism and John Major called off a long-standing visit to Spain.

A miserable day for the pound and shares, wiping out the gains that had followed the cut in German interest rates on Monday, came after the prime minister postponed his trip to Expo 92 in Seville at less than 24 hours' notice, deciding that he could not afford to leave the country in the present climate.

Sterling came to within 0.32 pence of its absolute floor in the ERM as it fell 3.19 pence during the

day to DM2.7812. More than £9.5 billion was wiped off share prices and the FTSE 100 index fell 52.1 points to close at 2,370.

City fears were raised last night that the government might have to raise interest

rates to protect the pound's position within the ERM. Mr Major and Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, have committed themselves to maintaining sterling's parity with the mark and senior Whitehall sources insist that the prospect of a devaluation is "zero".

The Bank of England must use its reserves to intervene if sterling falls to DM2.7780. If intervention fails, interest rates must be raised. The final option is realignment within the ERM. The government has repeatedly ruled out devaluation — so if such a decision had to be taken, it could make Mr Lamont's position untenable at the Treasury and critically jeopardise Mr Major's own standing.

The pound, the peseta and the lira struggled yesterday

as foreign exchange dealers bought German marks ahead of the French referendum on the Maastricht treaty on Sunday. Ministers will be anxiously watching the market this morning. The latest retail sales and public borrowing figures today, and the unemployment figures tomorrow, are unlikely to give them much cheer.

Dealers detected no apparent intervention by the Bank of England yesterday to support the pound but this may have been because the pound did not actually trade at its ERM floor.

Downing Street insisted that the sudden cancellation of Mr Major's two-day trip was not connected with the vulnerability of sterling. It said his decision was due to his heavy workload and he wished to bring himself up to

date with the public spending negotiations. These are reaching a critical stage as the Chancellor's new special cabinet committee will hold its first meeting tomorrow. Mr Major will also be involved in contingency planning for the action that will follow the French vote.

Downing Street was aware that the announcement might add to the air of drama surrounding the government, but Mr Major decided that the risk had to be taken. The announcement also underlined the gravity of the government's difficulties over public spending. The series of

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'No' vote could end defence of sterling

Senior British officials have hinted for the first time that a "no" vote in the French referendum could put in doubt Britain's ability to keep sterling within its present bands in the ERM, which has been the keystone of the government's economic policy. These official comments came as sterling slid back to within 0.2 pence of its absolute floor in the ERM and hit a new low against the mark. They reinforced reports from Germany of confrontation between Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, and Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president at Bath ten days ago.

British officials, who made no comment about relations between Britain and Germany, conceded that a "no" vote would have "important implications for the nature of the European exchange-rate mechanism" and would create a system with "a degree of flexibility in exchange rates that has not existed" in the period since Britain joined the ERM.

They have suggested that an increase in interest rates of only two or three percentage points might not be enough to avert market pressures for a sterling realignment, if speculators targeted sterling after the French referendum in the way they attacked the Italian lira. And they have confirmed persistent reports that the German Bundesbank was seeking a wider ERM realignment than the unilateral devaluation agreed by Italy last weekend.

Coming at this sensitive time, they suggested that a "no" vote in France might be taken, at least by some senior government advisers, as a signal to reconsider the government's commitment to defend sterling's ERM exchange rate at all costs.

Anatole Kaletsky reports on the first signs of concern among government advisers about Britain's ability to defend the pound if the French vote "no"

The sharp fall in sterling occurred despite private polls circulating in the markets that showed a big increase in French support for Maastricht. Two polls conducted on Monday showed majorities of 56-44 in favour. A poll conducted on Sunday and Monday nights showed a 54-46 spread and another showed a 50-50 vote.

In the event of a "no" vote, one senior official predicted that the ERM would become "an animal similar to the system that existed between 1983 and 1987", a period in which there were four realignments. The system would still have "an anti-inflationary bias and a strong reluctance to realign, but ultimately there would be a flexibility that has not existed".

There seem to be three reasons for the apparent doubts about sustaining the government's absolute commitment to the present ERM parity in the event of a "no" vote.

The first and most important is probably the astonishing losses suffered by the Bank of Italy in its ultimately unsuccessful attempt to hold up the lira. Although British officials are unanimous in their belief that Italy was a "special case" because of its high inflation and political chaos, there is a growing recognition that the efforts made by Italy and Sweden recently to defend their currencies have been on a far greater scale than anything seen in

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UK details Bosnia troops

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, AND ROBIN YOUNG

BRITAIN is to send 1,800 heavily armed troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina in an operation codenamed Grapple, which will cost up to £90 million in the first year of deployment. Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, announced yesterday. The troops are expected to be operational in the Balkans within 40 days.

Details of Britain's contribution towards protecting humanitarian relief convoys to Sarajevo and other cities under siege were announced, as a mercy flight carrying 68

seriously sick and wounded victims of the fighting in Bosnia landed at Stansted airport in Essex last night.

The men, from detention camps at Manjaca and Trnopolje in Serb-held northern Bosnia, have been granted exceptional immigration rights. The Foreign Office confirmed that the government cost of the rescue flight, had also agreed that the men's families should be allowed to join them in Britain while they were receiving medical treatment. The announce-

ment on the British troop deployment followed the resolution by the United Nations Security Council on Monday night to send reinforcements to Bosnia and to expand the UN mandate.

The British battalion group, led by the 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment, part of the Desert Rats 7th Armoured Brigade, may be based at Bihac, although details of the locations for the

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Exam grades raised

By JOHN O'LEARY

NEARLY 1,000 pupils had their GCSE and A-level grades raised on appeal in the past year, it was announced yesterday, increasing concern over consistency of marking.

There were 93 cases sent to the Independent Appeals Authority after last year's examinations, three times as many as in the previous year. Of these, 20 test cases completed the full appeals procedure and nine were upheld. In 1990 only one was upheld.

In its annual report the authority said: "The enquiries, appeals and reactions to

them from the centres and parents, as well as from others less directly concerned, have revealed a strong vein of disquiet, even suspicion, about the possibility of error."

In one case 730 pupils were upgraded in a GCSE chemistry examination set by the London East Anglian group. Lady Anson, who chairs the authority, said more appeals would have been lodged if pupils were able to deal directly with the authority. A review will consider whether to extend the remit beyond appeals from schools.

If you can't sell your home, try swapping

By RACHEL KELLY
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

JUST when it seemed every slick gimmick had been tried to get the housemarket moving again, homeowners are being invited to turn to the age-old system of bartering. Out go the housebuilders' tricks of new homes covered in fake snow at Christmas to encourage a sense of good cheer, the free BMW, or even a butler for a month thrown in. The smell of brewing coffee or fresh flowers awaiting any prospective buyers have long since lost their magic.

The property services arm of the Bristol and West yesterday launched a home exchange scheme in more than 50 agency branches in the

South-West and London. The building society aims to build a register of people who want to move in the slow housing market — and are willing to exchange homes to do so. There are an estimated 800,000 owners who cannot move because of the recession. With research showing that more than seven out of ten people move locally, the society believes the new scheme offers a useful alternative strategy to frustrated homeowners.

But building societies are not the only area of the housing market anxious to try anything. Developers have also realised that simple methods could be best. In the first auction of new homes in Britain, 20 luxury flats in Folkestone, which had stubbornly

refused to move for two years, were knocked down in just 62 minutes. The practice is common in America, but unknown for new homes here where the auction traditionally has been the province of property that is repossessed, or difficult to sell because it is in poor condition.

The Folkestone auction was organised for Prowling Homes by the American firm Kennedy-Wilson, which has sold more than \$3 billion (£1.6 million) worth of property in America by auction. The two-bedroom, two-bathroom flats overlooking the sea had been on offer for between £105,000 and £180,000. At the auction they fetched from £75,000 to £147,000.

Aubrey Glaser, the auctioneer,

said: "We hold the auctions at a weekend so they can be a family occasion. We try to make it easy for people to buy." Kennedy-Wilson runs "How to Buy" seminars before the day, holding mock auctions so that people can practise bidding.

Homeowners wondering if estate agents are no longer up to all their own tricks should think again however: estate agents may still clinch a sale in time-honoured tradition — if you pay them enough. Within a month McCarthy & Stone, the retirement home builder, sold 11 flats owned by people who wished to move into one of their new developments in Chorlton in Manchester — by doubling the estate agent's commission from 1.5 per cent to 3 per cent.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Homosexual claims
'known for years'

An investigation into claims that homosexuals holding senior legal positions may have influenced the course of Scottish justice would never have been ordered if information had not been leaked to the press, it was claimed last night (Kerry Gill writes).

Alistair Darling, Labour MP for Edinburgh Central, said the allegations in a leaked police report had been common knowledge in Edinburgh legal circles for three years. "If the report had not been leaked to the press, it would have been picked up by the press and the other press had not picked up the story nothing would have happened." He said he wrote to the former Lord Advocate, Lord Fraser of Carmyllie — now Minister of State at the Scottish Office — some time ago, expressing concern over one case in the report but no action was taken.

The report alleged that homosexuals in the legal profession may have perverted the course of justice. It named a High Court judge, two sheriffs and leading members of the legal fraternity that may have left themselves open to blackmail. The report instanced five cases including one involving rent boys in which 47 of 57 charges were suddenly dropped shortly before the trial.

Player denies punch

The former England rugby player Gary Rees, accused of breaking an opponent's jaw with a punch at a friendly match, yesterday told Kingston Crown Court that he had "just wanted to lunge him over" during play. Mr Rees denies causing grievous bodily harm to Stefan Marty, of London Irish. In evidence, he said: "I never meant to hurt him in any way. I was distraught when I discovered the seriousness of his injuries." Tape on his fingers would have prevented him from punching. The trial continues today.

Heritage cash warning

Rescue packages to save historic buildings and their contents, such as that created recently for Pitchford Hall, Shropshire, will have to be funded privately if they are to succeed, Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, said in his annual report yesterday. Pitchford Hall, whose scheme failed, would have been given to the nation and its contents bought for £1.8 million by the National Heritage Memorial Fund. "It was rejected purely on the grounds that the money was not there," Mr Stevens said.

Radio launch delayed

The launch of a third national commercial radio station rivaling Radio 4 and the BBC's proposed 24-hour news network has been delayed for over a year by the Radio Authority, which says that advertising cannot sustain a sudden rise in stations. The third station (NR3), required to be speech-based, will now not broadcast until spring 1995. It could have found a frequency late next year, before BBC Radio 6 begins in early 1994. The authority is to advertise five new regional licences in the next six months.

£30m boost for port

Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, celebrated 125 years as a port yesterday with the opening of a £30 million dock entrance providing access for vessels of 20,000 tonnes, twice the previous maximum size. The improved entrance, inaugurated by Lord Cavendish of Furness, was intended to allow the Vanguard class submarines being built at the VSEL yard to exit easily, but will also give the port a competitive edge in seeking new contracts. The yard has cut its workforce from 14,000 to 9,000 in the past two years.

Photocalls as usual for stay-at-home Major as he anticipates spending battles

Squeeze on cash will
hit housing,
roads and schools

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CAPITAL: spending programmes on roads, housing, hospitals, schools and inner cities are expected to be hit in the toughest squeeze on public spending for ten years.

All ministers are bracing themselves for stringent cutbacks on planned programmes aimed at keeping public expenditure within the £244.5 billion agreed last July. But the real battle over who gets the biggest share of the cake will start at tomorrow's meeting of the special cabinet committee.

Michael Portillo, chief secretary to the Treasury, will tomorrow set out a number of difficult options to curb spending while meeting the costs of the demand-led social security bill, and the implementation of new policies such as the council tax and community care.

It will be up to the committee, chaired by Norman

Lamont, the Chancellor, to draw up a list of spending priorities and decide where the cuts should fall. The final decision will be put to the full cabinet in October or early November. Spending ministers point out that under the new system they are given no opportunity to negotiate with Mr Portillo over the bids as they have done in previous years.

The prime minister, anticipating an outcry from some departments, is now busy briefing himself on papers from meetings between Mr Portillo and ministers held in the last two weeks. Mr Major's decision to cancel his trip to Spain leaves his diary free to see Mr Portillo and individual spending ministers.

Michael Howard, environment secretary, is arguing for

about £2 billion extra to cover transitional costs for the implementation of the council tax and Virginia Bottomley, health secretary, is seeking over £600 million for the community care programme.

Peter Lilley, social security secretary, is said to be pressing for well over £3 billion extra on his £76 billion budget next year. Inaccurate forecasts on unemployment will cost an extra £2 billion. The demand for a number of benefits this year, including family credit and income support, has been seriously underestimated, pushing overspending up even further.

Mr Lilley may be persuaded to bring forward changes to the pension age for women by raising it to 65, which could save £3 billion. But other cutbacks, such as reducing the eligibility for unemployment benefit, are unlikely to be politically acceptable.

Defence, transport, health and environment are instead expected to be the most vulnerable departments. The government will find it hard to condone big cutbacks in defence at a time when it is committing 1,800 troops to back up UN forces in Bosnia. Some ministers are already alarmed at the potential extra costs of committing forces.

A more likely victim to Mr Portillo's knife is an ambitious £6.3 billion programme to improve trunk roads and motorways in Britain over the next three years which is detailed in the Tory manifesto.

The public spending white paper includes a £2 billion capital programme for the Housing Corporation for next year and £1.9 billion on local authority housing, much of which is earmarked for repairs. The environment department is also to spend £798 million on inner-city initiatives next year.

Mrs Bottomley is not expected to get the 2.8 per cent real terms increase that she was promised to boost her budget next year to £30 billion. She hopes to get at least enough to cover inflation and will argue that extra cash will be needed to fund pay awards for doctors and nurses, the community care programme and the patients' charter.

While John Major is said to be committed to improvements in education services, the capital programme to improve schools and the further education budget are expected to come under heavy scrutiny.

The special cabinet committee comprises Mr Lamont, Mr Portillo, Tony Newton, leader of the House of Commons, John Wakeham, leader of the House of Lords, William Waldegrave, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Kenneth Clarke, home secretary, and Michael Heseltine, trade and industry secretary. The committee is expected to meet once more before the Tory party conference before putting its deliberations to the full cabinet.

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letters, page 15
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Sam: John Major meeting Chris Patten for breakfast and talks on Hong Kong

Old friends
brighten
a hard
day's night

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AS ANOTHER long day in the life of a modern prime minister journeyed into night, John Major rounded off his official engagements yesterday by going back to his political roots.

At about 8pm he was in Lambeth, south London, making a presentation to two Conservative councillors who had served alongside him in the 1960s and who have completed 30 years in local government. As he made the presentation to Hugh Chambers and Bob Greenwood, the

prime minister, buffeted by a sterling crisis and a host of other storms, might have wished he could swap places.

The day began as it ended — with old friends. At 8am, Chris Patten, architect of the election victory and now governor of Hong Kong, dropped in for breakfast. Before losing his Commons seat, Mr Patten was one of Mr Major's closest advisers. It was perhaps no coincidence that the cancellation of the prime minister's trip to Spain was made known as the two men posed for photographers at about 9am outside Admiralty House in Whitehall. Mr Major's temporary base while Downing Street is refurbished.

An hour later, he met the leaders of Unicef, the confederation of European employers' organisations, headed by Carlos Ferrer, the president, who pressed the case for the completion of the single market and the stalled GATT talks. To the relief of the prime minister, his guests did not mention the pound and interest rates.

After meetings with cabinet ministers, Mr Major slipped away to what was coyly billed as a private engagement. It turned out to be lunch at the Stafford hotel in St James's with the Country Landowners' Association.

After a gentle canter around the rural economy, planning and reform of the common agricultural policy, it was back to Admiralty House and the rather less tranquil business of



10am: Carlos Ferrer, of the European employers



3pm: talking peace with King Hussein of Jordan



5pm: with Norman Willis, of the European TUC

the Middle East. King Hussein of Jordan, a regular visitor to London, was due at 3pm to review the state of the Arab-Israeli peace talks and the renewed tensions in the Gulf. At 5pm, Norman Willis, president of the European

TUC as well as general secretary on the domestic front, forced a rare entry to the corridors of power with a delegation. Unlike the employers, Mr Willis was not afraid to mention interest rates and the pound.

The policy gurus in tune with No 10

Peter Riddell looks at the background
of the economic advisers grouped
around an embattled John Major

THE "Best and the Brightest" was how David Halberstam, in part ironically, described the members of the Washington and New York foreign policy establishment whose advice led to the growing involvement of America in south-east Asia in the 1950s and 1960s. The same might now be said, perhaps with similar irony, of the group of advisers around John Major and Norman Lamont whose views have influenced British economic policy for more than a decade.

There are two main groups — one in 10 Downing Street and the Treasury, and the other at the Bank of England — consisting of a mixture of special advisers and permanent officials. The link is that most were blooded during the turmoil of the mid-seventies when inflation threatened to spiral out of control and the pound plunged. The main advisers were converted to, or entrenched in, the view that inflation is an evil that must be eliminated, or at least kept to the lowest possible level, if there is to be sustainable economic growth. That led to the adoption of what became known as monetarism, even though that much-abused term covers a

variety of goals and methods of economic policy.

If Harvard was the formative influence on the American foreign policy advisers, the London Business School in the second half of the seventies was the finishing school for many of the present advisers. Sir Terence Burns, the Treasury's permanent secretary, Alan Budd, his old friend and successor as chief economic adviser, and Bill Robinson, special adviser to the Chancellor, were colleagues in the small economic unit there. They developed proposals emphasising the importance of the exchange rate as a central mechanism in economic relationships.

Sir Terence joined the Treasury as chief economic adviser in 1980. Since then, he has played a key role in development of policy under successive chancellors. His occasional public speeches and comments have reflected the change in Treasury thinking from the mid-eighties on-

wards to accepting the virtue of stable exchange rates. That led to the controversial shadowing of the mark in 1987-8 and eventually to entry into the exchange-rate mechanism nearly two years ago.

That shift produced conflict between Nigel Lawson and Margaret Thatcher, and a challenge to the Treasury view from economists such as Sir Alan Walters, an official and unofficial adviser at No 10 in the 1980s, and Patrick Minford and Tim Congdon. They see themselves as true monetarists who emphasise the growth of the money supply rather than what they see as the false goal of a fixed exchange rate.

Apart from the London Business School contingent, the other key Whitehall advisers are Sir Nigel Wicks, Treasury second permanent secretary, Michael Scholar, also at the Treasury; Alex Allan, principal private secretary to Mr Major; and a Treasury official, and Sarah Hogg, head of the

Downing Street Policy Unit. Mrs Hogg, as an economic journalist in the seventies and eighties, was prominent in debate over policy changes.

At the Bank, a central role is played not just by Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the governor, but by two career Bank officials, Eddie George, deputy governor, whose views on economic and monetary policy have had a big influence on Mr Major and Mr Lamont, and by Anthony Coleby, an executive director responsible for market operations.

These advisers share belief in the importance of fighting inflation and of stable exchange rates. They have become associated in the arguments that led to the decision to join the ERM and in the latest battles over maintaining the parity. Although there are differences of view within both Treasury and Bank, they agree on what amounts to a new orthodoxy — embattled though it now is. What is more, it ties in with Mr Major's instincts. Even though he only came round gradually in 1989-90 to urging ERM membership, his hatred of inflation has been constant, nurtured on his odyssey from Coldharbour Lane.

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PLO man's daughter defends relationship with heritage secretary and attacks media 'innuendo'

Friendship with Mellor 'nothing to be ashamed of'

By TIM JONES

MONA Bauwens, the woman who shared her holiday villa in Marbella with David Mellor, the heritage minister, and his family, said in the High Court yesterday that there was "nothing, absolutely nothing" to be ashamed of in her relationship with the Mellor family.

Mrs Bauwens, 31, said that she had also found out that John Major, the prime minister, had "made it known" that he saw "no reason" for Mr Mellor to be ashamed of his association with her or her family.

In a libel action, Mrs Bauwens is seeking damages from the publishers of *The People* newspaper. She said that she had "thrown up" after reading reports of the trial in yesterday's newspapers, which she said were full of innuendo and written for sensational effect.

The court was told that the real purpose of the articles at the centre of her action was to question Mr Mellor's political judgment in taking a family holiday with Mrs Bauwens, whose father is a senior executive member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The case, in which Mr Mellor may be called to give evidence, concerns the holiday which Mr Mellor, his wife and children took with Mrs Bauwens in a rented villa at Marbella during the Gulf war.

During angry exchanges with George Carman, QC, Mrs Bauwens, whose father, Jawid al-Husseini, is chairman of the Palestine National Fund, said repeatedly that the activities of the PLO were nothing to do with her. The newspaper had described her father as the "paymaster" of the PLO and had outlined alleged atrocities committed by the organisation.

Mr Carman said it was "blindingly obvious" that the primary purpose of *The People* articles, published in September 1990 at the time of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, was to criticise not her but Mr Mellor, who at the time was minister for the arts.

Mrs Bauwens replied: "It may be legitimate for you to criticise people in public office but not, in the process, to drag me into it, to say because I am my father's daughter I should not be mixed with."

Mr Carman asked: "Did

you appreciate, and do you appreciate, that at a very politically sensitive time when British lives were at stake in the Middle East, with hostages taken, it was important for a government minister to support the government politically on the sensitive issue?"

She said: "I appreciate it, but I don't think Mr Mellor did anything which did not show his support of the government. During the holiday, Mr Mellor rang his office several times to see if he should return. He was in constant touch."

Mr Carman referred to several terrorist actions allegedly carried out by the PLO, including the *Achille Lauro* cruise liner hijack in the Mediterranean in October 1985, and the Lockerbie jet bombing, which killed 375.

Mrs Bauwens said she knew the accusations had been made and had been denied. "I am not here to defend or uphold the PLO."

"I can only tell you what I know. This organisation is recognised in over 100 countries, including Great Britain and the EEC declaration says the PLO should participate in any peace talks."

The Arab league says they are the representatives of the Arab people. If what you are saying is right, I would be very surprised that Her Majesty's government would allow this organisation to have an office in the UK."

Mr Carman: "Did you discuss with your father between the years 1985 and 1990 the nature of the position he occupied on the executive committee of the PLO?"

Mrs Bauwens: "No, my father never talked about this. We certainly discussed politics, we are a very spirited family. We are very talkative, all of us."

"From what I know about my father's views he certainly always advocated peaceful negotiations. The whole history of the family has been peaceful negotiations. He never came and said what went on at meetings, not even in general terms."

Mr Carman asked about her father's actions at the time Saddam Hussein took hostages and threatened to use them as a human shield.

"To your knowledge, did he ever threaten to resign?"

She said: "I am not really prepared to discuss certain

Sticking together: Mr Mellor's wife Judith, left, with Mona Bauwens, who seeks damages from *The People*

things which are my father's personal feelings."

Asked by her counsel, Richard Hartley, QC, what she thought of her cross-examination on Monday by Mr Carman she said: "I didn't like the way the questions were asked. I thought the implications were clearly made to make me look bad or wicked or that I was improper. I thought they were hurtful."

Richard Stott, who was editor of *The People* at the time that the paper published the articles said that he considered the story was one of "huge relevance" to his readers. At the beginning of September it was likely that Britain was facing one of the gravest military crises since the second world war.

"It was on that basis and against that background that the story regarding Mr Mellor and his holiday was used. The purpose of the story was to draw people's attention to the fact that a minister of the government had been on holiday for almost a month with the daughter of a leading member of the PLO and that in our view this was something that should undoubtedly be told to readers."

Minister's wife in court to back friend

JUDITH Mellor, wife of the national heritage secretary David Mellor, yesterday made an unexpected appearance in the public gallery of the High Court where her friend Mona Bauwens is fighting a libel action against *The People* (Tim Jones writes).

Braving a host of photographers, Mrs Mellor walked arm-in-arm with Mrs Bauwens. Mrs Mellor, who sat listening intently during the hearing, had heard George Carman, QC, say that the real issue of the case was of the political wisdom of Mr Mellor taking a holiday with the daughter of an executive member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation during the Gulf hostilities.

Outside court Mrs Mellor told reporters: "I am just supporting my friend Mona. I planned to come here today anyway." Asked if she was going to give evidence for Mrs Bauwens, Mrs Mellor said: "I'm not prepared to comment. I'm here. That's all."

During the lunch break Mrs Mellor accompanied Mr and Mrs Bauwens and the society hostess Liz Brewer to the Wig and Pen club where they dined in a private room on salmon sandwiches, mineral water and coffee.

Dressed in a smart checked jacket, Mrs Mellor sat in the packed courtroom as her friend was closely questioned about her reactions to the newspaper reports of the first day of the trial. The judge, who heard arguments about

the press coverage in the absence of the jury, said he would study them "while I am enjoying a sandwich".

Mrs Bauwens said that she thought Mr Carman's descriptions of photographs of her taken at her mother's home — one of which showed her in a leotard astride a rocking horse — were unjustified and full of innuendo.

"He was trying to make them sensational by saying they were provocative or whatever," she said.

Richard Hartley, QC, her counsel, asked the judge to look at the reports. "I don't know if they are supposed to be fair and accurate reports but there is only one subject addressed in them," he said.

Mr Carman said that it was inevitable that some newspapers would decide to pick out a small part of Monday's evidence but his clients were not responsible for what appeared in other tabloid newspapers except in so far as they accurately reported what happened in court.

Time and again Mrs Bauwens defended her family and asked, when questioned about the activities of the PLO and of her father: "What has it got to do with me?"

Mrs Bauwens told Mr Carman that to him it was just a job whereas she was fighting for her life, a victim of innuendo and a newspaper circulation war. Even if her father was not an honourable man, the sins of the father should not be visited on his children.

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Underdog wooed by Oxford

By JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

OXFORD dons and students yesterday explored ways to attract more sixth-formers from working class and ethnic minority backgrounds. Their conference was part of a new scheme fired as much by social fair play as by evidence that former comprehensive pupils are outperforming those from public schools in the quality of their final degree.

The Oxford Access Scheme aims to persuade students from tougher educational backgrounds to apply. There have been similar schemes before, but none that drew financial backing, and pledges to lend sympathetic ears to applicants, from 15 colleges.

The one-day conference attracted teachers, college admissions officers, career advisers from local education authorities, students targeted by Access and industry representatives. Talks explored the practicalities of attracting students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Jitinder Kohli, who runs the scheme, said it was prompted by a belief that there was a vast pool of talent being overlooked.

In 1990, 5 per cent of successful applicants to Oxford came from ethnic minorities, against 8 per cent at other universities. While 33 per cent of white applicants landed a place, only 23 per cent of those from ethnic minorities did.

Leading article, page 15

Police react coolly to prostitute zone

Birmingham council is considering a plan to shift the vice-trade to an industrial area. Craig Seton reports

Balsall Heath is an inner city area of Birmingham which has struggled valiantly for several years to shake off its run down image and reputation as the main red light area of Britain's second largest city, where prostitutes openly ply their trade on numerous streets or advertise their availability by posing in underclothes in house windows.

Local parks, allotments and lock-up garages are regularly used for the exchange of casual sex and money between the girls and their clients, in spite of repeated action by the local police to crack down on the trade. Residents complain constantly about discarded condoms, of women being molested by kerb crawlers and of abuse by prostitutes.

To try to develop a long-term strategy to curb the nuisance, the city council commissioned a report that recommends creating a "zone of tolerance", possibly in an industrial area, where prostitutes could work without fear of arrest and could be monitored and have health checks.

The report estimates that one in 12 of Birmingham men use the services of an estimated 900 prostitutes in the city and whose numbers are said to be increasing due to poverty.

Later this week the committee will consider a motion to begin talks with the police, magistrates, social workers, probation officers and other agencies that could lead to setting up a zone for prostitutes.

West Midlands police reacted cautiously yesterday to the

plan. Supt Philip Scriven, head of police in Balsall Heath, said that a change in the law would be needed.

He said that if prostitution was restricted to an industrial area, women working locally could still be molested by kerb crawlers and many prostitutes would resist having to work in a special area.

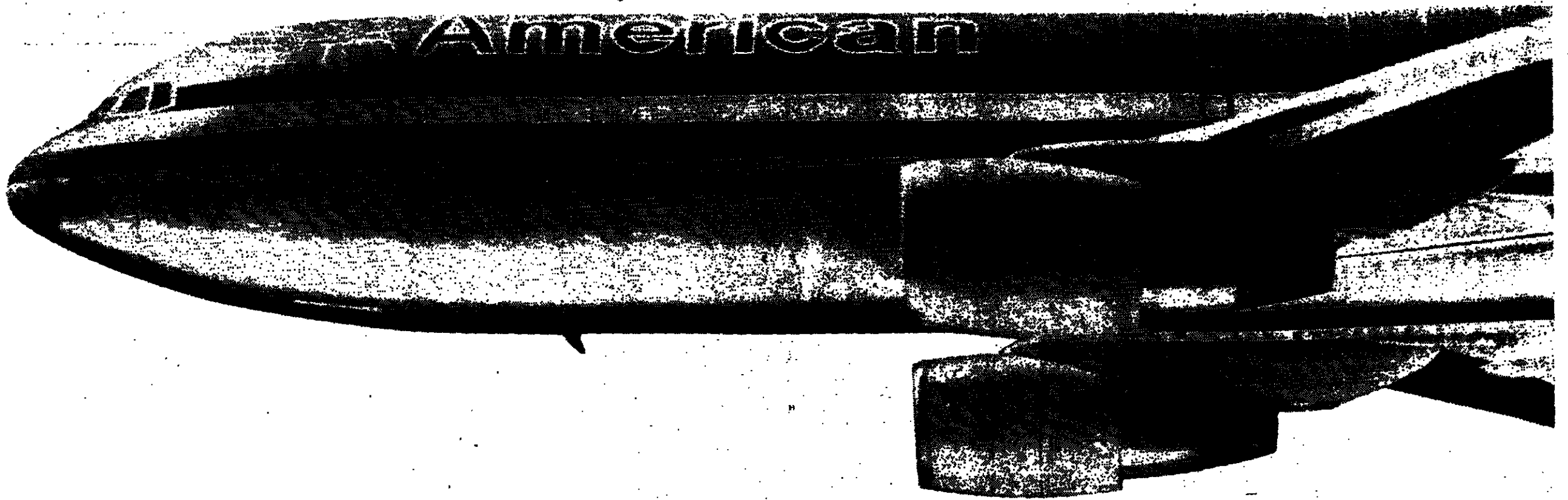
They would see it as a form of control that put them in some form of legitimate employment that would involve paying tax and national insurance. If you are earning between £1,000 and £1,200 a week tax free, as some of them are, they are not going to agree to that willingly.

"It would also be difficult to remove girls from areas where they are accustomed to working." Nor would a special area solve the problem of underage prostitutes, girls operated by pimps or drug-related prostitution, he said.

The Liberal Democrat conference in Harrogate yesterday called for an enquiry to consider whether brothels should be legalised and prostitution treated like any other business (Robin Oakley writes).

The conference urged the government to stop the fining of prostitutes, to concentrate police efforts on arresting pimps rather than prostitutes and to make the carrying of condoms inadmissible as evidence of prostitution. The conference rejected a Young Liberal Democrats amendment for the immediate legalisation of prostitution.

Conference reports, page 10



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Research team's work led to withdrawal of children's vaccines

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

DETECTIVE work by doctors and laboratory staff in Nottingham led to the withdrawal yesterday of two brands of MMR vaccine given to children to protect them against measles, mumps and rubella because of evidence that it can cause a mild form of meningitis.

But doctors fear that a third brand of the MMR vaccine which is still considered safe may not give as effective protection against the diseases as the two that have been withdrawn.

Professor Kenneth Calman, chief medical officer at the health department, wrote to all doctors yesterday informing them that Plusix-MMR, made by SmithKline Beecham and Immunavac, made by Merieux were being replaced with MMR-II, made by Merck Sharp & Dohme and distributed by Wellcome.

The safety of MMR vaccine has been monitored by the National Study of Meningo-Encephalopathy in Oxford since its introduction in October 1988. About 50 reports of viral meningitis after the vaccination had been received from more than four million children treated. "It was certainly not enough to take action on," Dr Aidan Macfarlane, director of public health at Oxford health authority, said.

But paediatricians at Queen's Medical Centre, in Nottingham, ordered tests of the spinal fluid of all children admitted to Nottingham Health Authority hospitals after the vaccination to check for meningitis, which is a complication of mumps. The children had developed raised temperature, stiff neck, and sensitivity to light and had occasionally had convulsions about three weeks after vaccination.

Laboratory staff found six cases over three years in which the spinal fluid did not look normal. It was sent to the virology lab, which identified mumps virus, later confirmed by genetic sequencing at the National Institute of Biological Standards in London as the Japanese Urabe strain,

identical to that in the withdrawn vaccines.

The Nottingham study suggested that viral meningitis after vaccination was more common than had been thought at one in 6,000, but the health department says the national figure is one in 11,000. Dr Richard Slack, a Nottingham authority consultant in communicable disease control, said: "We have been in some dispute with the department over that." The Nottingham researchers wanted to publish their findings in the *Lancet*, which forced the government to act.

Doctors said yesterday that vaccine-induced viral meningitis was a rare, transient, mild illness, and was quite unlike bacterial meningitis, which could be fatal. All children affected had recovered.

The health department said that before the vaccine was introduced, mumps affected "nearly everyone" and one in 400 contracted a more severe form of mumps meningitis. Measles and rubella are also at record low levels since the vaccine was introduced.

Dr Calman advised doctors yesterday to continue giving the withdrawn vaccines, Plusix and Immunavac, which contain the Urabe strain of the mumps virus, until adequate supplies of the third vaccine MMR-II, which contains the Jeryl Lynn strain and has not been linked with any cases of meningitis, become available.

Dr Slack said there was "still a question" whether the Jeryl Lynn virus strain was as effective. "The Urabe strain works very well. The nearer you get to the disease itself with the vaccination, the better the immunity. If you have got a vaccine that doesn't produce any reaction at all, is it as good?"

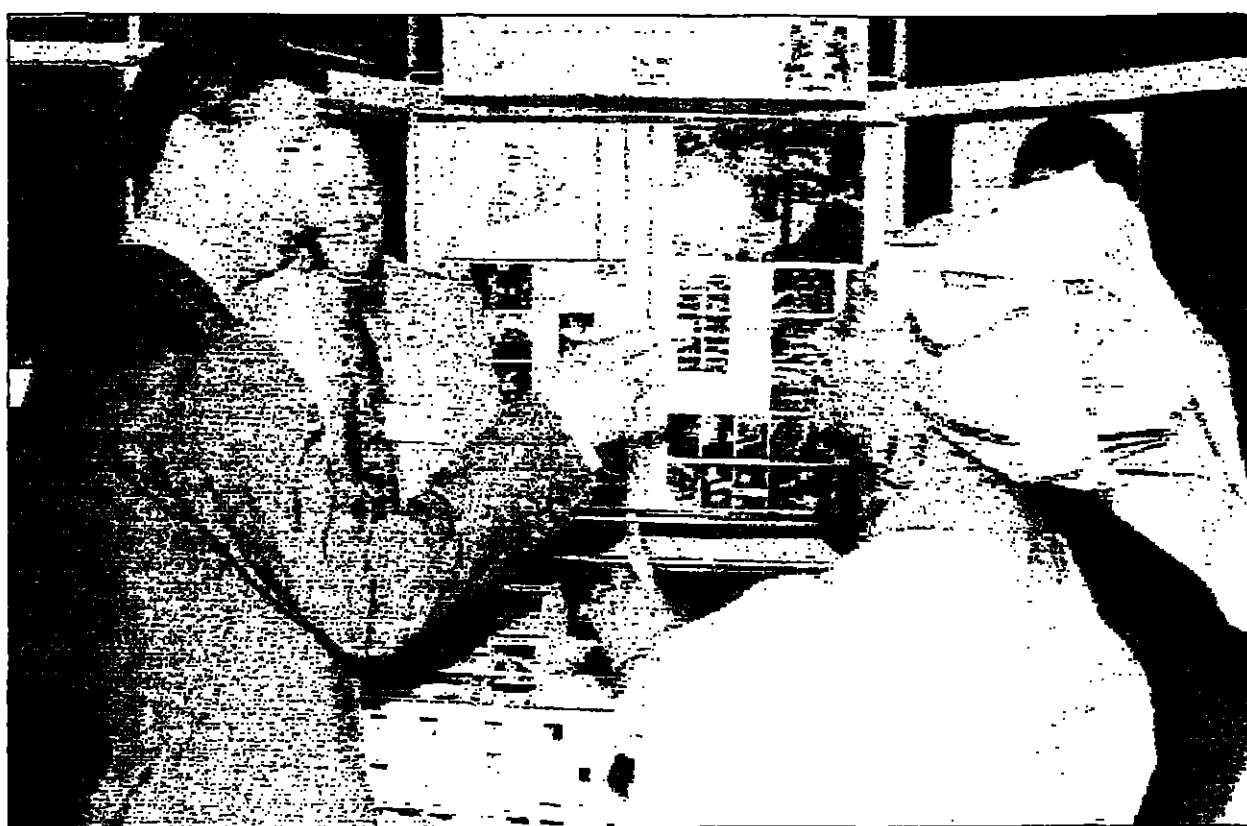
□ The health department announcement of occasional cases of viral meningitis after some MMR types of injection have been confirmed illustrates the recent honesty of the department, which has delighted the medical professional but unwittingly

alarmed millions of mothers (Dr Thomas Sutterford writes).

All medicine is a balance of risk against benefit. Unfortunately, the announcement of the Chief Medical Officer did not make it clear that the danger after vaccination was only apparent for at the most five or six weeks.

Tens of thousands of mothers who had their children injected over the past year or two have been worried and have been calling their GPs. There is no danger and their children are protected against mumps measles and rubella and cannot at this stage have developed meningitis.

The benefits of protection against mumps, measles and rubella are so immense that mothers should not hesitate to ask for it. They should be relieved that they are spared the anxieties of previous generations whose children had to suffer the long-term consequences of these diseases.



Winning ways: the Prince of Wales meets Elio Edwards of Moss Side, Manchester, at the seventh Community Enterprise Scheme awards at Edinburgh castle yesterday. He paid tribute to the inspiration of ordinary people who, in spite of modest budgets, had managed to complete community-led building schemes that had improved their surroundings, often in areas of deprivation, with the help of professional advisers (Kerry Gill writes). Awards in the scheme,

which is sponsored by *The Times*, the Royal Institute of British Architects and Business in the Community, were made in nine categories with the most outstanding going to the Cornerstone Garthdee Project in Aberdeen. The project, which created purpose-built homes for handicapped people, won the Charles Douglas-Horne Award. It was the first time that the awards were held outside London. Robin Dean, the scheme's administrator, said there had

been a deliberate decision to hold the ceremony in Scotland because of the huge support found there. It is hoped that next year the ceremony will take place at Cardiff castle. After the prince had viewed some of the winners, the Scottish Community Projects Fund was relaunched. The fund offers grants to voluntary and community groups who want professional help in producing a feasibility study for improvements to their environment.

Green hints misleading shoppers

BY ALISON ROBERTS

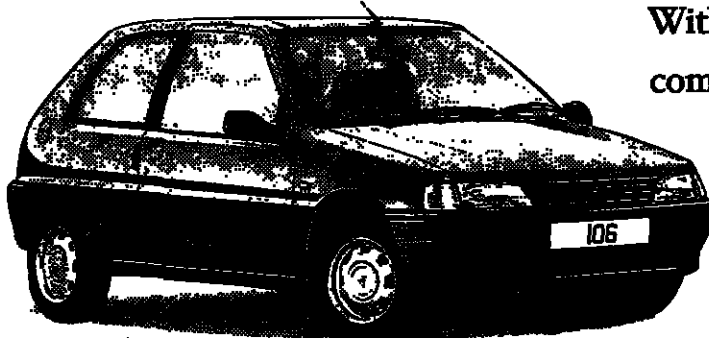
SHOPPERS are being misled by vague slogans making environmentally friendly claims for household products, psychologists have found.

Green consumers remember environmental claims as more positive than they really are, and can be easily conned into misreading them, a team from the University of Hertfordshire will report today at a British Psychological Society conference in Hatfield.

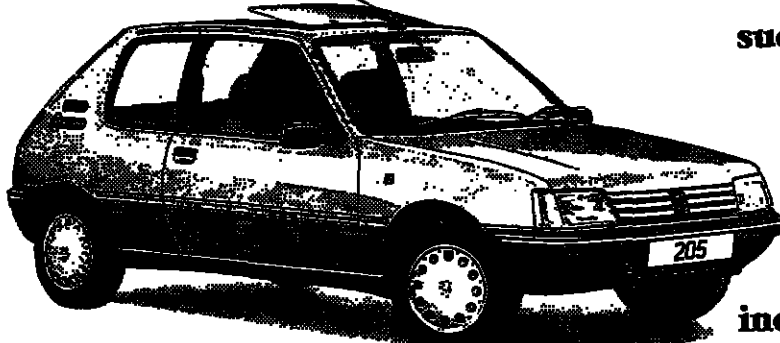
Interviewees were asked to recall wording on 15 products. In all 450 statements made, it was remembered as being more environmentally friendly than it was, especially when it could be easily misinterpreted. The words "Aluminium foil is recyclable" on packaging gave the impression that the foil had been recycled. Claims about packaging were often attributed to its contents. Dr Jane Pierson, from the team, said: "Deodorant packaging might say 'Contains no CFCs which allegedly damage the environment' and consumers will remember that as 'Contains nothing which will harm the ozone layer', which is often not true at all."

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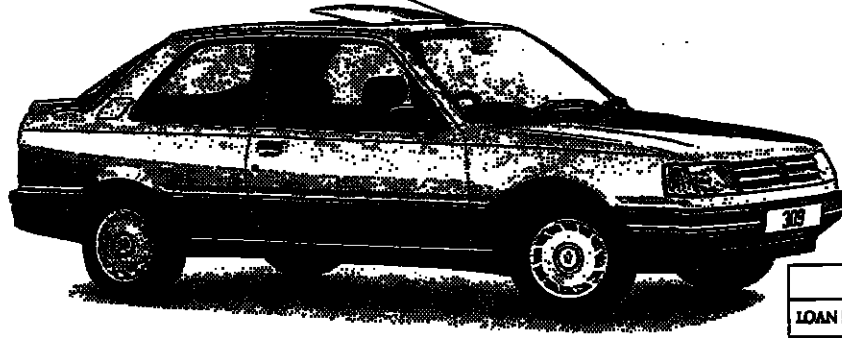
(The price you see is the price you pay to drive away)



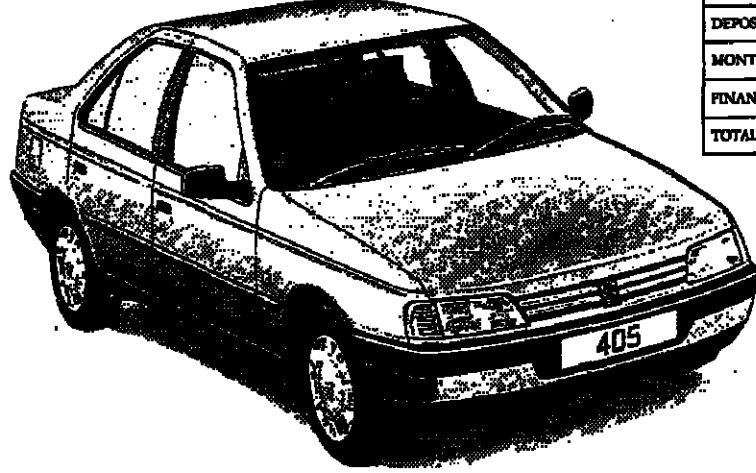
106 XN 1.0 £5,995 DRIVE AWAY



205 LOOK £6,995 DRIVE AWAY



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DRIVE AWAY PRICE*	£5,995.00	£5,995.00	£5,995.00	£5,995.00
APR/FLAT RATE	7.7%/2.9%	10.0%/4.9%	14.3%/6.9%	15.1%/7.1%
DEPOSIT	£2,995.50	£2,398.00	£1,498.75	£999.50
MONTHLY PAYMENT	£257.03	£164.56	£130.75	£146.13
FINANCE CHARGES**	£122.18	£387.76	£965.97	£1,651.90
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	£8,117.18	£6,362.76	£8,800.97	£7,648.50

*Includes estimated On The Road Costs of £445.50 for 6 months' Road Tax, Delivery to Dealership and Number Plates. **APR/Flat rates available on request from your local Peugeot Dealer. Offer subject to status (over 18s only). A guarantee may be required. **Includes £35.25 administration fee payable with the first instalment.

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Spinach may help prevent cancer

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

NATURAL substances produced by spinach may help protect people from some types of cancer, scientists said yesterday. They claim to have identified chemicals produced by certain plants including spinach which tests indicate have powerful cancer combating properties.

The research, details of which were disclosed at a conference organised by the Institute of Food Research, part of the Agricultural and Food Research Council, in Norwich, is expected to spawn studies aimed at identifying the genes in spinach responsible for producing its anti-cancer agent.

Kazuki Shinohara, the scientist behind the discovery, said yesterday that, once identified, the genes could be used to boost the production of the anti-cancer chemicals in spinach. "With biotechnology it is possible to also put these into other plants," said Dr Shinohara, of the national food research institute in Ibaraki, Japan.

The work involved preparing large protein compounds from plants including spinach, broccoli, burdock, cucumber, aubergine and green peppers. Some bacteria, *Salmonella typhimurium*, were then exposed to known cancer causing agents while others were also exposed to the plant agents. The plant preparations significantly inhibited the development of cancers, the tests showed.

Other tests using cultured human cancer cells found extracts from spinach inhibited the growth of breast and lung cancer as well as other carcinomas. More than two anti-cancer agents have also been identified in garlic although their levels depend on the plant's age.



Haines: Mirror had no option but to fire Davies

Newsman angered Mirror

STAFF at the *Daily Mirror* would have "hanged" Nicholas Davies, their former foreign editor, if he had not been sacked, an industrial tribunal in London was told yesterday.

Joe Haines, former political editor, told the hearing that feelings were running high after allegations that he was an Israeli spy and an arms dealer. He said that when a union representative was told of the sacking, he said: "Good. If he had come back here, we would have hanged him ourselves."

Although no one at the *Daily Mirror* believed the spy and arms trade stories, Mr Davies allegedly put the newspaper's credibility at risk when he lied about a visit during which he met a dealer in Ohio, America, in 1985.

Mr Haines, former press officer for Harold Wilson, said that the *Daily Mirror* had no option but to fire Mr Davies. Commons motions had been tabled about his activities and other newspapers were calling him a liar. He had never believed accusations that Mr Davies had helped to sell arms to Iran, been a Mossad agent or had helped Israelis to capture the nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu. He believed Mr Davies had never "sold a peashooter, let alone a star fighter F104".

Mr Davies, 55, was dismissed from his £55,000-a-year job last October, shortly before the death of the *Daily Mirror's* publisher, Robert Maxwell. He is claiming unfair dismissal.

The hearing continues.

Schools wake up to the advantages of an earlier timetable

SARAH Martin no longer dreads the long afternoons in the classroom. For Sarah, 12, afternoons mean fewer lessons and more time to play netball and hockey and to ride her horse.

"Everyone likes finishing lessons earlier," Richard Firth, 15, a fellow pupil at Willington School, near Eastbourne, said. "You can get your homework done and be home in time to watch *Neighbours*. No one complains that much about getting up at seven o'clock."

Sarah and Richard are two of the 750 pupils at the school, which adopted a Continental timetable a year ago. Pupils start and finish earlier and schools use the "extra" hours at the end of the day to provide a range of

Schools converting to a Continental-style timetable claim better results from happier pupils, Kate Alderson reports

activities. Until now, the increasing introduction of the Continental-style day has been piecemeal, undirected by either Whitehall or education authorities. The experience of pupils, parents and head teachers so far suggests that the changes will become the routine of many more children.

Last night, Hammersmith and Fulham council, west London, was due to become the first authority in Britain to consider converting all its primary and secondary schools, teaching 13,000 pu-

pils, to the earlier timetable and a four-term year with after-school activities. It believes that the move, allowing more after-school activities, will give inner-city children a better education.

Tideway School, in Newhaven, East Sussex, pioneered the timetable change ten years ago. Ken Saxby, the headmaster, believes that the 8.10am start has improved the children's academic performance. "Our A, B and C grades in GCSEs and their equivalents have doubled during the period," he says. "Our

school is an infinitely more civilised place now. There is less time wasted being bored and less time to hang around."

"Afternoon lessons are more productive, and the activities we offer are taken up by at least half of our 1,400 pupils. I also think that it's less dangerous for a child to walk to school in the dark on a winter morning than in the evening."

Children at Tideway finish lessons at 2.15pm and can sing in the choir, play in one of the two orchestras, join an engineering or public speaking club or do community work, among other activities, until 4pm.

Several schools in Somerset, East Sussex, Nottinghamshire, Merseyside and Hampshire have changed to the

earlier start and many City Technology Colleges start at 7.30am and offer a mixture of lessons and activities until 5pm.

The education department said yesterday that timetable changes were a matter for individual schools to decide. Hammersmith and Fulham said that its plans would only go ahead if there was support from parents in a substantial majority of schools.

Some parents at Willington had initial reservations. Linda Thorpe, mother of Chris, 13, and Natalie, 11, said: "At first I was against the whole scheme, but now I have been won over. I can remember school and I didn't like it anywhere near as much as my children do now. Natalie goes to a dancing

TIMETABLE	
08.00-08.20	Registration
08.20-10.40	Lessons
10.40-11.05	Snack break
11.05-12.15	Lessons
12.15-12.35	Lunch
12.35-12.50	Registration
12.50-14.00	Lessons
14.00-16.00	Enrichment activities (such as computing, bowling, dancing, netball or learning a new language)

class on Friday and there's more time for me as well."

Some teaching unions are less enthusiastic. The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women

Teachers is firmly opposed to the four-term year being proposed in Hammersmith and says that the Continental day must not lead to longer hours for teachers. The National

Union of Teachers is concerned that the four-term year would cause difficulties for school exam timetables, and that it could increase the numbers of "latchkey" children with working parents. Schools that have the new timetable believe that they have countered this difficulty by providing teacher supervision for children after lessons, even if they do not participate in the extra activities.

Joan Freeman, a psychologist and author of a book on childhood learning, said: "I think the continental timetable, with after-school activities and supervision, is a step in the right direction. Early starts are a good thing because there is a lot of evidence that mornings are the time for remembering."

Head teachers seek 9% pay rise as reward for reforms

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

HEAD teachers yesterday submitted a claim for a 9 per cent pay rise as the government bluntly warned public sector employers about the consequences of high wage settlements.

Although less than the National Union of Teachers' 16.5 per cent claim, the heads' target is more than twice the rate of inflation. The case for the increase is based on the extra responsibilities imposed by the government's education reforms.

As details of the claim were announced, however, Nigel Forman, the higher education minister, spelled out the government's tough line on pay. He told polytechnic directors, in Edinburgh for their last conference: "Any irresponsible increase in salaries will lead not to an increase in expenditure, but to a loss of jobs."

Lecturers in the former polytechnics have turned down a pay offer of 4.65 per cent, and clerical staff have begun a series of strikes after rejecting a 4.3 per cent rise. Mr Forman said that both offers were reasonable, and reflected productivity gains.

In a speech obviously intended to dampen expectations throughout the education service, Mr Forman said: "Employers are recruiting in a buyer's market. Accordingly, they need to challenge the expectation that there will be annual increases in pay simply for delivering a given level of service."

He added: "The only prudent basis for an increase in pay is improvement in productivity and performance. It is in everyone's interest to ensure that any further pay increases are based on this principle."

Although teachers' pay will not be settled until their review body reports early next year, lecturers throughout the higher education system are now in dispute. The Association of University Teachers will meet the vice-chancellors shortly to decide whether to take legal action against John Patten, the education secretary, to try to remove his veto on a 7 per

cent pay increase. David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, acknowledged yesterday that there would be similar pressures on pay in schools, but he said that it was "futile" for ministers to try to hold down salaries artificially while piling on extra demands. "If the leaders of the profession are not paid salaries which equate with the size of their jobs, we will not recruit, retain or motivate those who must run the education system."

The 32,000-strong union said that its claim would mean the head of a typical primary school earning £27,746, with a secondary head receiving £42,677. A typical primary school deputy head would get £24,574, and a secondary deputy £22,339.

Mr Hart said that job evaluation comparisons by a firm of management consultants had shown that heads and deputies were paid a minimum of 3.2 per cent less than comparable professionals. The 9 per cent claim represented the sum of this figure and the 5.8 per cent average rise predicted for industrial and service salaries in the year ending in April 1993.

The polytechnic directors agreed at their conference to join their counterparts in the traditional universities, establishing a single representative body for the expanded university sector.

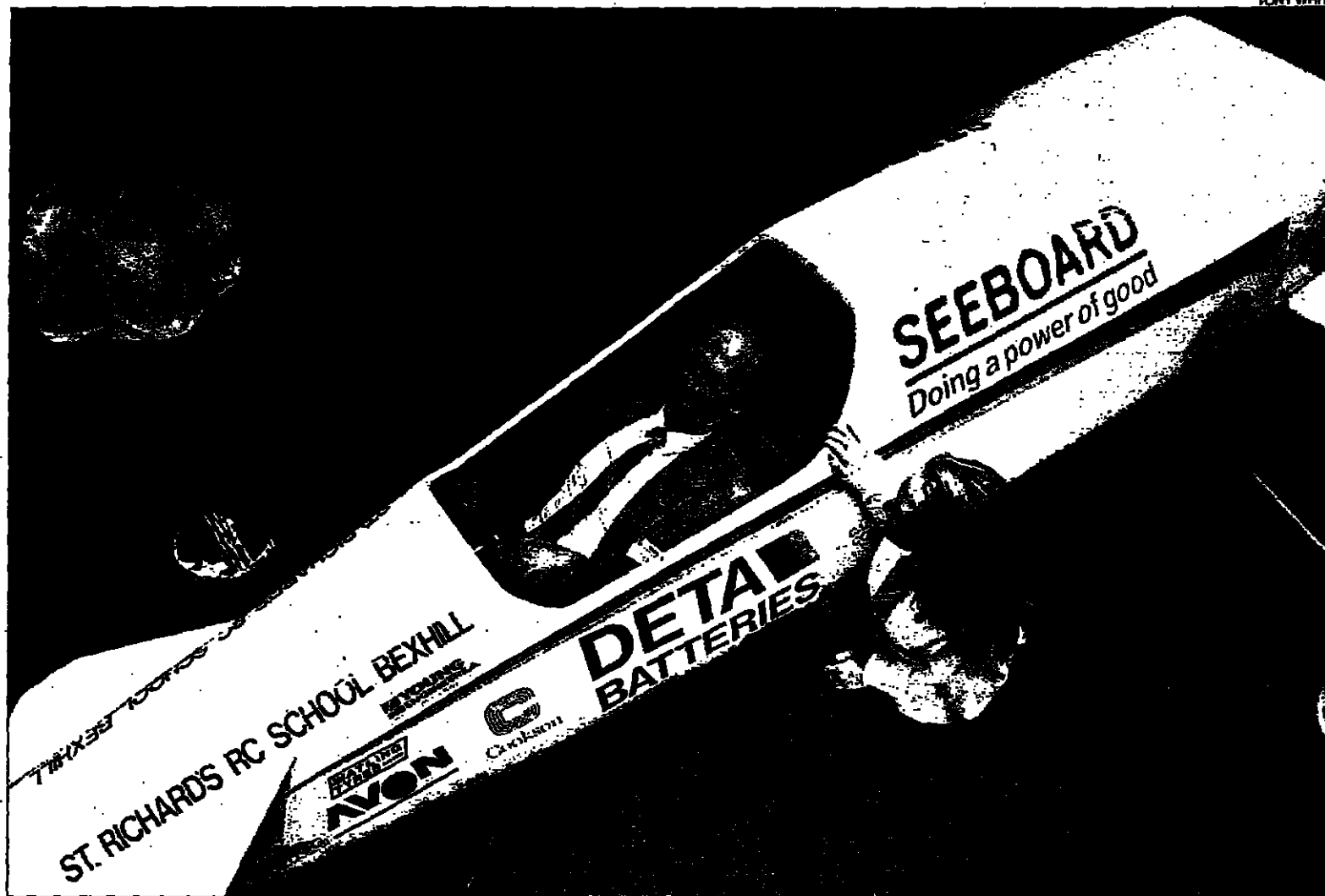
They will join the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals in October, subject to the vice-chancellors' agreement to their conference next week in Exeter, Devon.

Kellie Darby, 16, was surprised when she received a letter from the prime minister's office containing two mistakes. It came to her home at West Ardley, West Yorkshire, days after the government launched an investigation into education standards, with special attention being paid to spelling and grammar. In the letter, from Mr Major's correspondence secretary, Kellie's surname was twice written with a small "d", not a capital.

Kellie, who gained a B grade in English GCSE, said she was surprised that no one noticed the error before the letter was posted. Kellie, who had written to Mr Major about animal rights, said: "If we had not used capital letters at school we probably would have not passed our exams. It's a bit much after everything the government has been saying recently."

A Downing Street spokesman apologised, saying that the mistakes were typing errors.

Letters, page 15



Good little number: Peter Fairhurst, technology teacher at St Richard's School, Bexhill, getting to grips yesterday with the machine that will try to break the 11-year-old world land speed record for lightweight electric cars. He is watched by pupils Vicky White, left, and Bella Harrison. The battery powered car, unveiled at the

Seaboard technology fair at Brighton, is sponsored by Lotus Engineering but is being designed and developed as a private venture with pupils at the East Sussex school as well as battery, computer and engineering firms (Nick Nuttall writes). The Lotus team, which helped to propel the pursuit cyclist Chris Boardman to an Olympic gold

medal in Barcelona on a lightweight, streamlined bicycle, believes that by using similar materials and skills the car could reach more than 120mph over a one-kilometre flying start to beat the 100.242mph record set in 1981 by Jens Knudsen of Germany. The decision to work with the school, whose effort is being co-ordinated by

Mr Fairhurst, was made because several of the design team are former pupils of St Richard's or have family connections. The car will use a high-powered 45kw electric motor and standard lead acid batteries. Testing of the car is planned for the middle of next month and an attempt on the record is scheduled for January.

Top shopping centre crashed because it was 'too upmarket'

BRITAIN'S most exclusive shopping centre collapsed with debts of £160 million because the developers chose the wrong place to attract affluent shoppers, the new management said yesterday. The Galleria, a £200 million complex over the A1 (M) tunnel at Hatfield, Hertfordshire, which opened a year ago, has a string of exclusive, but empty, shops and went into receivership on Monday. The shops failed to attract enough people from north London and Hertfordshire and were too expensive for Hatfield.

Geoff Foot, who manages the centre on behalf of the receivers, Grant Thornton, said the concept of housing only upmarket stores had been a mistake. "We will identify the good and bad tenants and we will aim to bring in middle-market stores."

The Galleria was the brainchild of the Carroll Development Group. A syndicate of banks called in the receivers because A1 Galleria Investment Corporation could not meet its construction debts.

Mr Foot said: "The complex is obviously a victim of the recession. Retailers paid rent according to their trading levels and letting has been slow and well below the level needed to finance the debts."

Roger Groom, group property director of Sears, which

A £160m complex failed to attract affluent buyers, writes Nicholas Watt

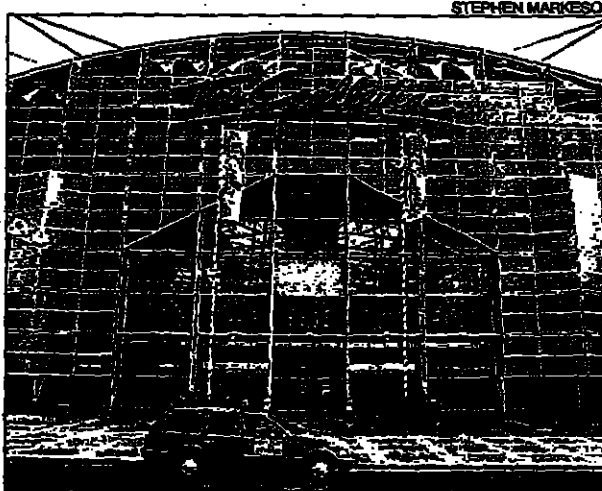
owns Miss Selfridge, Warehouse and Sainsbury's, said: "Although the A1 passes underneath the Galleria, Hatfield is not a destination. People were always on the move in the area."

The complex was weakened

because it did not have an "anchor" store to draw shoppers. Shop managers in the complex criticised the developers, Alan Kaye, who owns two stores, said: "They started out with a blaze of publicity. But then this stopped and instead of being upfront the management pretended everything was wonderful. I hope the new managers don't take the centre downmarket."

Roger Carroll, for the developers, said: "There was a £50 million overrun on the £90 million construction plan and an 18-month delay on a 21-month building timetable."

STEPHEN MANNING



Victim of recession: The Galleria shopping complex

Big workforce fall 'will hit economy'

By DAVID YOUNG

BRITAIN'S policymakers should start preparing now for a demographic "time-bomb" when the number of younger people in the national workforce drops and the children of the post-war baby boom become pensioners, according to the first of two major reports prepared for the Carnegie Enquiry into "The Third Age".

The enquiry is conducting ten major surveys into issues which will affect people aged 50 to 74. The work will be completed for the launch next spring of a campaign to highlight issues affecting the "third-agers". The first reports, published today, look at third-agers' role in the workplace and at pensions, savings and earnings.

The reports suggest that government, employers and the trades unions should look beyond the recession which is badly affecting third-agers. They say that unless attitudes and policies change then Britain's long-term recovery may be endangered by an increasingly inactive, but healthy and independent third-age population, under-utilised and a burden on those in work.

The report on employment says that never before has there been such a massive withdrawal from work by men

under 65, the retirement age, and shows that paid employment and earnings are crucial for saving money and providing the private or occupational pensions essential to supplement state benefits in old age.

The report on incomes shows the enormous changes in the level and make-up of earnings and savings of third-agers in the past 20 years. While gross earnings are up by about 40 per cent in real terms their share of income from earnings fell from 70 per cent in 1971 to about 57 per cent in 1989. The contribution of private pensions and investment income rose from 14 per cent of total income to 23 per cent.

The reports, by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and the Public Finance Foundation, independent policy specialists, suggest that while some older workers have investments and private pensions which are an increasingly important part of their income, others who left school at 15 or 16 and have no qualifications are trapped in a cycle of low-skilled work and unemployment.

Income: Pensions, Earnings and Savings in the Third Age. Employment: The Role of Work in the Third Age. (Balley Management Services, 127 Sandgate Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2BL £9.50.)

Punch verdict

Vincent Canon, 29, of Portishead, Avon, was cleared of manslaughter by Oxford Crown Court after punching a family friend, Alfred Thornhill, in a pub at Didcot, Oxfordshire. Mr Thornhill collapsed and died.

Speed trick

Avon and Somerset police are to put plastic patrol cars on motorway bridges to frighten motorists into slowing down. Further down the road will be a real patrol car to catch drivers who speed up again.

Murder charge

Trevor Thomas, 50, an ambulance man, of Barking, east London, was remanded in custody by Barking magistrates, accused of murdering his girl friend, Susan Oliver.

Gun threat

Police in Hull are hunting two men who pointed a gun at a boy aged 11 and ordered him to hand over his bicycle. They ran off after the boy refused.

Sailor returns

Peter Hancock, 62, has returned to Southwold, Suffolk, after seven years of sailing single-handed around the world on his 26ft yacht *Kyle*.

Smoking ban

The coach company National Express is to ban smoking from November 1. Nine out of ten passengers preferred smoke-free travel, the company said.

Baby treated

Katya Predtchenskaya, the Russian baby brought to Britain for a harelip operation, was said to be comfortable after surgery in Chepstow, Gwent.

Secret brew

Scottish and Newcastle brewery hired a crane to right an overturned tanker at Tintwistle, Derbyshire, after refusing police requests to drain the prototype beer inside.

Victim buried

Helen Gorrie, 15, who was murdered six weeks ago in Hornsea, Hampshire, will be buried today.

Bentleys on the move



8 New Bond Street: A sympathetic restoration

BENTLEY and Co, the Bond Street Jewellers, are moving. Known for sixty years as the buyers and sellers of the loveliest jewellery they have become a landmark in Bond Street. Today at noon they show open the doors of their new shop at 8 New Bond Street, a beautifully restored building dating from the reign of William IV and the perfect setting for their fine stock of antique jewellery, silver and pieces of Fabergé. Their opening hours are 10.00 to 5.30 and further information may be obtained by telephoning 071 639 0651.

Electricity firms plan to build power stations in forests

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

FOREST-based power stations turning wood into electricity and large enough to provide fuel for a town are being planned by some of Britain's regional electricity companies, it was disclosed yesterday. The stations, two of which are being actively considered for the forest, Norfolk, and Kielder forest, Northumberland, would burn wastes generated by logging and timber operations.

Paul Maryan, a wood energy expert at the Energy Technology Support Unit in Harwell, Oxford-

shire, and the organisation evaluating the schemes' economic and technical feasibility, said yesterday that the country could support several large forest-based power stations, including possibly two in Wales and in South-East England.

Scotland could support even more but this would require the government to extend the Non Fossil Fuel Obligation, a levy which supports environment-friendly energy schemes, north of the border. News of the schemes comes as delegates gathered yesterday at an International Energy Agency conference in Emiskillen, Northern Ireland, to plan the future for small,

farm-based, power stations also fuelled by wood and connected to the National Grid. Malcolm Dawson, an official with the agriculture department, said that the United Kingdom's first gasification reactor would be unveiled at the local agricultural college in October where it would provide heat and electricity.

The 100kW power unit, designed by engineers at the University of Louvain, Belgium, turns coppiced willow and poplar directly into a mixture of hydrogen, carbon monoxide and methane to power a generator. It is claimed to be 85 to 90 per cent efficient. The scheme, to

be evaluated by Energy Technology Support Unit over nine months, could realise the dream of a national network of farm-based mini-power stations which could help farmers' incomes, make better use of marginal land and conserve the countryside.

Instead of growing a crop which requires transportation in trucks, the farmers' coppiced harvest is exported into the grid down a farm's existing electricity cable. Privately some electricity companies fear such a network could be an administrative nightmare. Murray Carter, a Yorkshire farmer and spokesman for the wood develop-

ment energy group, yesterday rejected such suggestions. "We know from the wind power projects going through in this country and abroad that it is perfectly possible to have dispersed power generation connected to the grid," he said.

Mr Dawson said the gasifier evaluation was "very exciting... this will be the proof of the pudding. If we can show it is technically and economically viable I believe we will have a real winner." Among the big wood power stations the one at Theford could be up to 20MW, comparable to some conventional power stations.

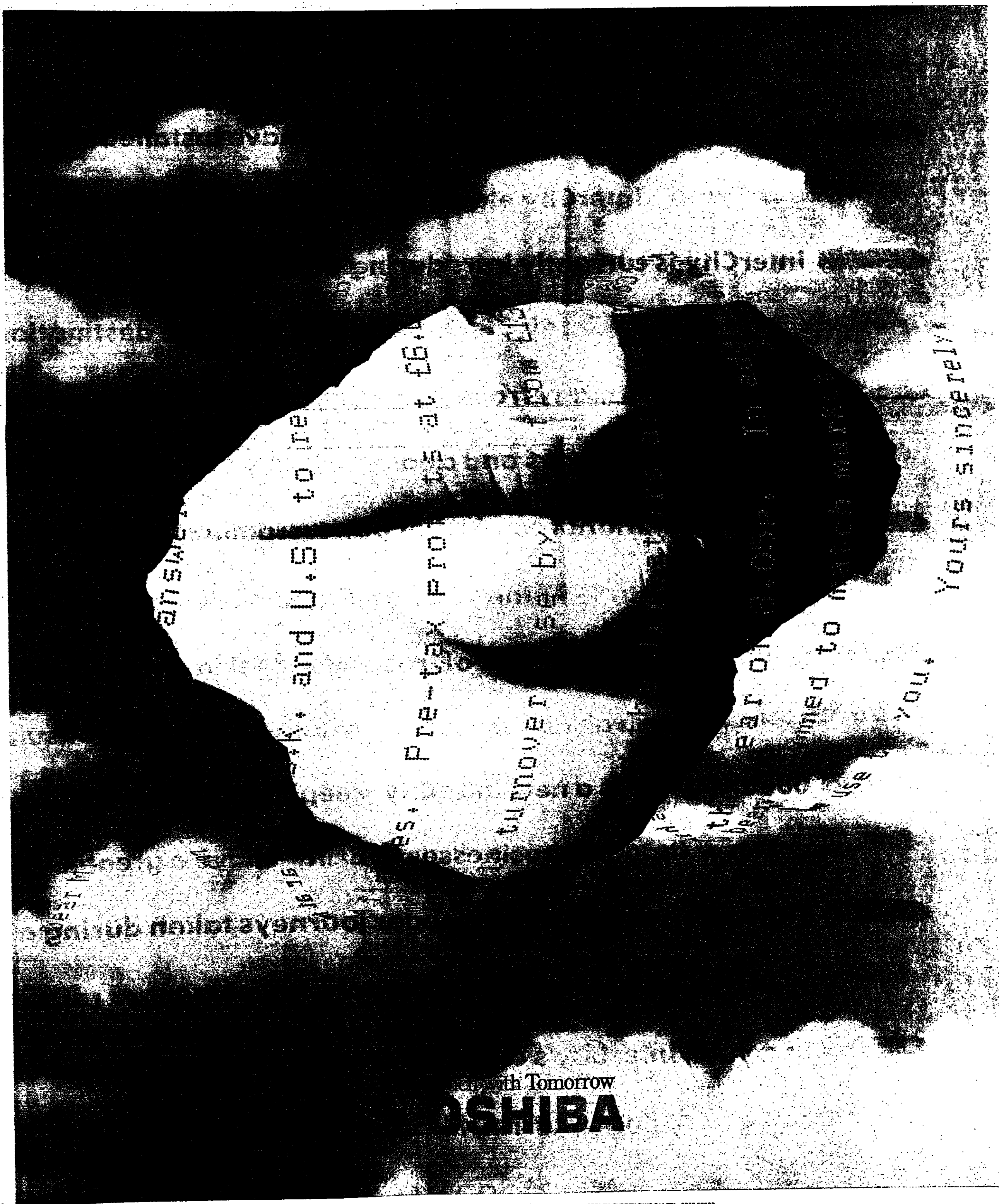
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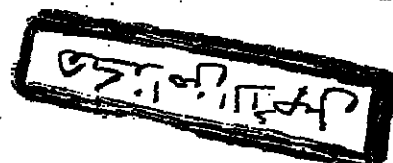
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INTERCITY

Electoral pact fears split Lib Dems

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

SENIOR Liberal Democrats were divided as the party yesterday continued to agonise over the form and extent of any contacts it should have with other parties.

Grassroots feeling against a pact has become clear, and several of the party's MPs appeared to be warning Paddy Ashdown not to rush towards any realignment, as it became clear that even like-minded Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs were not prepared to advocate any kind of national pact.

Although Mr Ashdown is ruling out formal pacts and insisting on no closer association with Labour until it has proved itself electable, his party clearly remains suspicious that he is keener than most on an eventual deal. The arguments are expected to flare up again today as the party debates its future strategy.

Charles Kennedy, the MP for Ross, Cromarty and Skye, told delegates in his presidential address that they must concentrate on building not a pact but a party.

Agreeing with Mr Ashdown that the whole process of opposition politics had to be reformed before there was a chance of securing electoral reform, Mr Kennedy said that the task in Harrogate was "not to try and tie our feet in ribbons with some hypothetical, undeliverable political pact but to begin to articulate a distinct post-election stance".

He appeared to have a coded warning for his impetuous leader in insisting that they must get their thinking straight "calmly and cautiously".

The motion for today's debate rejects any nationwide pact but leaves the way open for local deals. Some MPs revealed their doubts about its call for the party to "promote a process of discussion which includes those, of all parties and of none, who believe that a fundamental change in the governance of Britain is the

PARTY STRATEGY

key to all other necessary changes.

While Mr Ashdown is supported by Jim Wallace, leader of the Scottish party, and by Menzies Campbell, the defence spokesman, others fear a threat to the party's identity. Malcolm Bruce, MP for Gordon, who led his party in co-operation with Labour in the Scottish constitutional convention, told a fringe meeting yesterday that while he had no regrets, "Our radical agenda was compromised and we paid the electoral price". It had reinforced the Tory slogan that a vote for the Liberal Democrats was a vote for Labour.

At a fringe meeting on realignment, Sir David Steel, the former Liberal leader, and Frank Field, the Labour MP for Birkenhead, ruled out formal pacts but suggested that local parties could work together. Mr Field warned the Liberal Democrats not to work under the false impression that Labour was dying when it had increased its vote and its seats at the last two elections. Their preoccupation with electoral reform, he said, made them look to the electorate like a one-issue party.

A group of party activists who support links with Labour later tabled an amendment to today's conference motion, calling on the conference to welcome "the moves by members of the Labour party and others to help build a consensus for fair votes and other constitutional reforms. European unity and a sustainable liberal economy".

Leighton Andrews, one of the sponsors of the amendment, said: "Labour is moving in our direction on many issues and it is foolish to say we can't talk to them."

Simon Jenkins, page 14
Letters, page 15
Matthew Parris, page 18



Room for a view: Liberal Democrats listen to yesterday's debate on homelessness, during which Tory policies came under fierce attack

Homes quick fix ruled out

By Sheila Gunn, Political Correspondent

THE scale of Britain's housing problems persuaded Liberal Democrats yesterday that it was unrealistic to commit the party to a policy of eliminating homelessness within 12 months.

After the conference made clear that housing should be treated as a priority, Nigel Jones, MP for Cheltenham, promised a green paper at next May's conference.

Liberal Democrats condemned Tory policies which, they said, had led to record levels of homeless families, young people on the streets, mortgage repossession, and poor housing.

Opening the debate Alex Carlile MP, leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats,

HOUSING

said the party must expunge the disgrace and dishonour of burgeoning homelessness forced on Britain by Conservative governments. Among the options being considered by ministers during the public spending round, he said, were a £2 billion cut in the housing budget and a local government spending freeze.

The conference motion called on the government to allow councils to use house sale receipts to build more homes for rent; to launch an emergency strategy to end unintentional homelessness; and to pay housing benefit in advance to the jobs to help

them rent homes. John Smithson from Huddersfield asked the conference to go further but failed to win approval for a commitment of providing sufficient housing to eliminate homelessness within 12 months. He wanted to put teeth into the motion, he said, and a pledge from the party to do something.

Francis David from Monmouth called for a policy of putting an increase of 1p on income tax to be devoted to housing.

Baroness Seear disagreed. The electorate had said they supported the Liberal Democrats' policy at the last election of a 1p tax rise for education, but they had not backed it in the ballot box.

Delegates back fighter

DEFENCE

AMID indications that Germany has persuaded Italy and Spain to pull out of the European fighter aircraft project, the Liberal Democrat conference yesterday unexpectedly backed the defence secretary Malcolm Rifkind's commitment to the project (Sheila Gunn writes).

A few years ago it would have been unheard for Liberals to side with a Conservative government's plan to spend billions on a sophisticated new fighter plane.

Yesterday speakers from Avon, Lancashire and Edinburgh made successful pleas for support as jobs in their areas depend on the project. Although some representatives moved for a rethink of the pro-EFA stance, at the end of the day they were soundly

defeated. Menzies Campbell, the party's defence spokesman, appeared to influence many waverers by a last-minute plea for full support to increase his authority to speak for the project in the Commons. He did not believe Germany's decision was irrevocable.

Anne Smith from Fylde said it would be economic folly for Britain to pull out of EFA and would jeopardise the jobs of 50,000 highly skilled employees at British Aerospace in the region. Anthony Williams, chairman of Westminster North constituency party, described the pro-EFA motion as "wrong-headed, self-interested and incoherent".

BRIEFS

Steel calls for 'new order'

Sir David Steel, the Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokesman, yesterday condemned Britain's "backward-looking" stance on foreign policy and called for a more positive approach in creating "a new world order" (Arthur Leathley writes).

Sir David deplored the reduction in the proportion of British wealth spent on overseas aid. He called on the government to reach the UN target of 0.7 per cent of GNP by the end of the current parliament.

His proposals included the establishment of new criteria by which the UN could challenge the sovereignty of member states for human rights violations. "We must move from UN peacekeeping forces to UN peacekeeping forces."

The proposals were contained in the party's green paper on international institutions, *Beyond the Nation State*. Although they were endorsed, several speakers opposed plans to include Japan as a permanent member of the security council.

UN backed

The conference overwhelmingly agreed to support the United Nations in striving to end capital punishment in all countries. It also pressed for the death penalty to be abolished in Britain for the few crimes for which it remains a penalty, such as high treason and piracy, and for immediate abolition in British dependencies.

'Hit list' plea

A call for a "hit list" of winnable seats, with paid, full-time permanent election agents was deferred. Tom Halmos, of the party's organisers and agents association, said that agent in high-profile seats should be given job security.

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Centre right appeals for union

Giscard makes a last lament for 'yes' vote

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

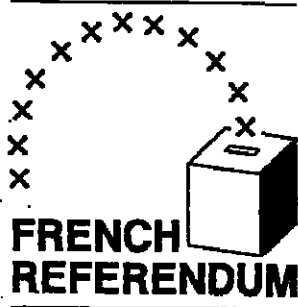
THE lights may not yet be going out all over Europe, but you could sense the gloom around the dinner tables in Vincennes as Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former president and ardent advocate of the Community, rose to sound his lament.

"What image will France be giving the world if our country demolishes with its own hand 40 years' work constructed with patience, determination and courage?" M. Giscard d'Estaing asked of 2,500 dignitaries and supporters of his opposition centre-right UDF grouping. He recalled how Konrad Adenauer, the late German chancellor, had described to him with tears in his eyes, his first meeting with De Gaulle in the days when European political union was little more than a pipe dream.

A "no" vote would turn back the clocks and mean that "we will not see a single European currency in our lifetimes... We have to vote 'yes' to save the image of France," said M. Giscard d'Estaing, speaking as the man who, in the 1970s, launched the European monetary system with Helmut Schmidt, then the West German chancellor, and started the summits later known as the European Council.

The occasion was the culmination of M. Giscard d'Estaing's drive to rally France's political centre and right behind a "yes" in the Socialist president's referendum on Sunday. But everything about the well-mannered scene in the Parc Floral in the Bois de Vincennes, on the eastern edge of Paris, testified to the dialogue of the deaf which has characterised the campaign.

A sea of Hermes ties, Cartier watches and women with their hair up signalled a convocation of the BCBG (*bon chic bon genre*) — the well-heeled Parisians who fill the upper ranks of the UDF. They are a force far removed from the rougher-hewn opponents of Maastricht, who have flocked



FRENCH REFERENDUM

to the political extremes and to the "Three Musketeers" of the mainstream right, Charles Pasqua, Philippe Séguin and Philippe de Villiers.

"Did you see their show last Saturday? What a spectacle," asked a businessman, referring to the American-style rally attended by 6,000 hooting and cheering "no" voters. "You'll find us far more reserved." His neighbour then interrogated the waiter loudly on his voting intentions.

"Yes," of course, the waiter said. "Good for you," the lady replied.

Allied by uncomfortable circumstance with the Mitterrand campaign, M. Giscard d'Estaing's army stands for the enlightened classes which believe in Europe and are appalled at the populist campaigners who have harnessed the national resentment against Maastricht and are scenting victory. Commentators are likening the two sides to the Girondins and the Jacobins of the Revolution; the enlightened bourgeoisie against the champions of the all-powerful nation state.

"It's rather sad," said Jean-Luc Morlé vice-president of the Paris city council. "There is so much misunderstanding, so much extraneous nonsense is being brought into the decision. Even my mother says she can't understand the treaty and can't stand Mitterrand so she wants to vote 'no'. I've told her not to." M. Morlé's tone of resignation can be heard throughout the "yes" campaign among government

and opposition. At the next dinner table, Simone Veil, the former president of the European Parliament, spoke of what she saw as the destructive frenzy of the dissident Gaullists and M. de Villiers, the UDF's own rogue campaigner. "They're like children kicking down sandcastles."

Europe, she said, is a fairy tale and "right now some evil forces are hovering over Europe... If the 'no' wins, nobody will be talking about Europe any more, but about the battles of centuries past."

In the final days of the campaign, with opinion polls banned, history has settled heavily over the Maastricht debate, pushing aside party point-scoring. For the anti-treaty "Jacobins", the survival of France is at stake. M. Giscard d'Estaing has provided the most eloquent advocacy for Maastricht, arguing tirelessly that deeper union is the only way to rise above destructive nationalism and ensure future glory for France.



Rallying the faithful: Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, leader of France's centre-right UDF party, addressing a pro-Maastricht rally in Vincennes yesterday

Amato woos union chiefs as lira falls

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE lira slumped again yesterday, only 48 hours after devaluation, as Giuliano Amato, the prime minister, was meeting with trade union leaders to try and defend his anti-inflation agreement.

The Bank of Italy was forced to sell marks on foreign exchange markets in renewed speculation two days after the 7 per cent devaluation of the embattled currency. The pressure on the lira followed unsubstantiated market rumours that Signor Amato had resigned, and appeared to confirm fears that Sunday's realignment may not have gone far enough, economists said. The lira was believed to be overvalued by about 25 per cent before the devaluation.

In the senate, where parliamentarians are to vote today on ratification of the Maastricht treaty, the fragile four-party government coalition of Socialists, Christian Democrats, Social Democrats and Liberals suffered its first defeat on its economic programme, designed to slash the huge budget deficit.

Rebels from the government's ranks joined forces with former communists to pass by six votes an amend-

ment to a government bill introducing a new property tax. The amendment meant that the legislation will apply only to homeowners, not tenants. Last night, the upper chamber was expected to vote on approving a measure to reform the finance of Italy's "golden" pension system, the national health system, local government budgets and the pay structure of civil servants. The Socialist-led coalition

ITALY

expects to win today's vote on Maastricht, presented as a friendly gesture to President Mitterrand in advance of the French poll. The lower house will have to ratify the treaty as well before it becomes binding on Italy.

Signor Amato summoned leaders of the three trades union federations after one of them described the devaluation as a defeat for the government. Signor Amato is concerned that the unions may renege on an agreement reached in July, abolishing the system of indexed wages that had been a principal cause of inflation in Italy for 47 years.

Waigel defends intervention by Bundesbank

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

GROWING suggestions that the Bundesbank has compromised its fiercely guarded independence by becoming involved in a deal with the Kohl government and the European Community shocked German commentators yesterday.

In the European parliament at Strasbourg, Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, denied that the Bundesbank had acted under political pressure in propping up the lira and shaving interest rates. The aim had been to stabilise the markets and he did not envisage a further realignment of the European monetary system. The Bundesbank had taken a "sovereign decision".

Many in Bonn, however, argue that the bank began to bow to political pressure as early as the rush to German unification, when against its better economic judgment it underwrote German monetary union at a level that Karl-Otto Pöhl, who was then Bundesbank president, described as disastrous. The economic chaos flowing from unification has shown the bank's judgment to have been correct, so there is considerable concern now that, in surrendering to the politicians again, the bank's ability to protect the mark has been compromised.

The financial daily *Handelsblatt* said that it would be fatal if "the defenders of our currency" were suspected of receiving instructions from politicians. "It would damage the bank's reputation for maintaining stable policies and its credibility, which have in the past been above reproach." The paper said that the bank would face even more political pressure as European political and monetary union came closer. The bank must resist that, it said, to prevent "doubts running riot" about the independence of the European central bank.

Most newspapers seemed to think that the bank was no longer independent anyway. The *Süddeutsche Zeitung* was

convinced that the Bundesbank had surrendered, adding that anyone who seriously believed that a European central bank would be independent was "a hopeless optimist". *Die Welt* said: "This is a golden day for the stock markets, but a black day for the Bundesbank."

It has emerged that the Bundesbank tried last week to force the British government to lower the value of sterling in exchange for lower interest rates. Sources here say that the tiny, quarter-point cut in rates would have been higher if the pound had

been devalued with the lira last weekend.

The independent central bank would also have liked to see the French franc included in a big realignment of the EMS. Had that happened, sources say, the bank was ready to slash rates by anything up to the two percentage points for which other members of the EMS have been calling. Informed sources here say the idea was fleshed out during a secret meeting last Friday when Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, and Herr Waigel flew to Frankfurt to see Helmut Schlesinger, the bank president. Both sides were anxious for a deal. Herr Schlesinger had become alarmed at the vast amounts the bank was having to pump into the system in order to prop up the weak currencies. The chancellor and Herr Waigel, under pressure to persuade the bank to cut rates, said they were ready to use their influence inside the EC to force a realignment.

The fact that negotiations continued until the last minute is shown by the way in which the realignment was fixed through a series of telephone calls on Sunday, rather than by holding a special council in Brussels on the Saturday, the time-honoured method of fixing new EMS exchange rates.

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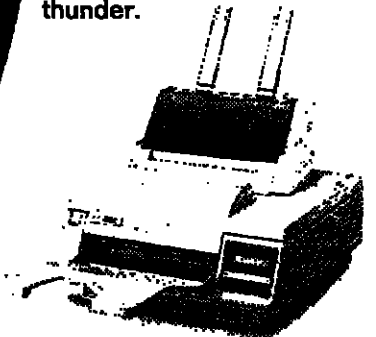
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11/8/92

British units prepare for 'operation unknown' in Bosnia

THE mission of 1,800 British troops to be sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina next month as part of the United Nations protection force has been appropriately codenamed Operation Grapple. Although the Ministry of Defence says the code has no significance, the name aptly describes the challenge facing the British soldiers and their UN partners over the next few months.

There is an alarming sense of the unknown about the operation. While this can be said of any operation in a war zone, the Bosnian mission is different. If not unique, The British troops are being sent with a restricted, peripheral role in Bosnia, yet they are armed with enough firepower to act as enforcers.

Senior British commanders involved in the planning of Operation Grapple admitted yesterday that there were risks and that the interpretation of the rules of engagement would have to be left to local commanders. However, the wording of the rules, as set down by Boutros Boutros

WESTERN INTERVENTION

British commanders will be able to retaliate against attacking local militias, Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent, writes

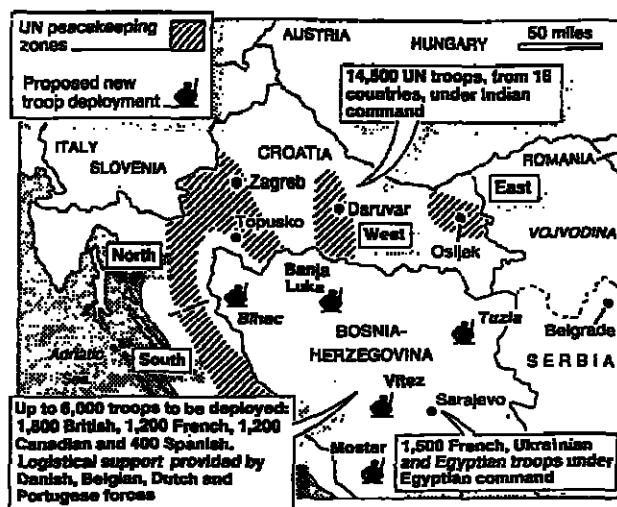
Ghali, the UN secretary-general, will entitle the commander, if he sees fit, to order troops and armoured vehicles to leave the road used by any convoy they are protecting and retaliate against local militia who attack or threaten to attack humanitarian relief lorries. Here lies the potential for "grappling" with the enemy.

The UN reinforcements will consist of the British, 1,200 each from Canada and France and 400, possibly 800, from Spain. There will also be support elements from Denmark, Belgium, The Netherlands and Portugal, bringing the total to about 6,000. The British will be fully operational within 40 days.

The first task is to decide on

the concept of operations and the locations for the four national battalion groups. To this end, each contributing nation is to send a planning team to Zagreb for a meeting tomorrow with General Sir Nambiar, the Indian commander of the UN protection forces in Croatia and Bosnia.

The British team will be led by Brigadier David Jenkins, director of military operations, and Major-General Geoff Field, director-general of logistic policy (army). Senior defence ministry sources yesterday underlined the importance of clarifying exactly what the soldiers on the ground will be expected to do and how they will be expected to react in threatening situations.



This is to ensure that there will be no repetition of the incident last week when French troops escorted a relief convoy were fired on by machineguns, and lost two of their number without making any move to seek out those responsible. The ministry sources said it was imperative that the British soldiers feel able to use their weapons in

retaliation for an attack and to pre-empt an attack if one seemed imminent. This would include, they said, going after anyone who fired mortar shells on convoys from hidden locations.

The British soldiers will consist of the 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment, strengthened by the 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Regiment, a

squadron from 9/12 Lancers, engineers from 35 Royal Engineers, who will be responsible for construction tasks and clearing mines from convoy routes, and logistic support from the Royal Corps of Transport and the Royal Ordnance Corps.

The Cheshires, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Bob Stewart, are not going to Bosnia with a war establishment as was the case with the regiments deployed to the Gulf. However, the battalion group will be sufficiently well armed to pose a potent threat to any militia which tries to prevent the troops carrying out their UN mandate.

Apart from Warrior infantry fighting vehicles, which will be protected with Chobham armour and have 30mm cannons, the battle group will have Milan anti-tank missiles, 82mm mortars and Scimitar armoured reconnaissance vehicles. Many of the Warriors were used by the Staffordshire Regiment during the Gulf war.

At present there are no

plans to send helicopters but if the planning team in Zagreb or the recon party, led by Colonel Stewart, which leaves for Bosnia next week, decide they are needed, Britain could provide Gazelles for reconnaissance and observation.

The ministry sources emphasised that the intention was not to blast a way through hostile areas but to rely on negotiation by the representatives of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, who are responsible for planning the routes of the convoys and arranging access with the local warlords.

The second task which has been given the British soldiers is to provide protection for prisoners who are released. This was not part of the original concept and it is not yet clear how this will work. "A lot of detailed planning still has to be carried out," one ministry source said.

An effective command-and-control network is also crucial. The plan at present is for each of the contributing countries to be located in separate zones

with the individual battle groups under their national commanders, although responsible under the UN umbrella to a two-star general to be appointed for Bosnia, probably Frenchman General Philippe Morillon, and the overall commander, General Nambiar.

Ministry sources said the role to be played by British troops would be an evolving one. "New challenges will require new interpretations of the UN rules of engagement. This is a different type of mission and we will have to learn as we go along," one source said. Sources hinted they would like the British battle group to be based at Bihac, but this will have to be negotiated during the meeting in Zagreb.

The troops will fly to the area, but their equipment will be sent by sea. The whole operation will cost £40 million. The first year of deployment to Bosnia will cost up to £90 million. The Cheshires expect to be replaced after six months.

Peacekeepers will attack if gunmen thwart security role

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

THE United Nations force in Bosnia-Herzegovina will increase fivefold in the coming weeks after the security council voted to send up to 6,000 more troops to protect aid convoys and freed prisoners of war there.

A resolution was adopted 12-0 late on Monday, with China, India and Zimbabwe abstaining. Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, said the troops "would follow normal peacekeeping rules of engagement" and "would thus be authorised to use force in self-defence". He added: "It is to be noted that, in this context, self-defence is deemed to include situations in which armed persons attempt by force to prevent UN troops from carrying out their mandate."

India and Zimbabwe supported sending more troops, but abstained because of a reference in the resolution to

UNITED NATIONS

the earlier authorisation of the use of force to get aid through the war zone. Li Daoyu, China's ambassador, said the force risked plunging into armed conflict. Dr Boutros Ghali agreed to place the new troops under UN command after the eight European countries contributing troops agreed to pay for the new force, rather than making further demands on the UN peacekeeping budget.

The bulk of the new troops will come from Britain, France, Canada and Spain, with smaller contingents from Belgium, Denmark, The Netherlands and Portugal. They will work in tandem with the 1,500 UN peacekeepers from Egypt, France and Ukraine already in Sarajevo.

The new UN force will protect only those aid convoys

it is asked to guard by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, which hopes to be able to expand its relief effort. The troops will also escort freed prisoners of war to safety if asked to do so by the Red Cross.

Yesterday President Izetbegovic of Bosnia agreed that Haris Silajdzic, the republic's foreign minister, would attend peace talks in Geneva on Friday, reversing an earlier decision not to send a Bosnian government delegation while Bosnian cities were under attack. But Ejup Ganic, a member of the Bosnian presidency, said the move was made under duress. Cyrus Vance, the UN peace envoy, on Monday issued a declaration practically ordering the predominantly Muslim government to honour a promise to show up.

Yesterday Serb tanks were reported to be razing houses in the Sarajevo suburb of Stup. Bosnian officials said yesterday morning that 28 people had died in the city in the past 24 hours.

The UN security council resolution passed on Monday night omitted any reference to possible UN supervision of heavy weapons in Bosnia and made only passing mention of the ban on military flights agreed at last month's London conference. Diplomats say a further security council resolution imposing a "no-fly zone" is likely.

Britain, France and Belgium plan to challenge the right of the Serb-led rump state in Belgrade to take Yugoslavia's seat at the United Nations. The resolution would leave the Yugoslav seat empty, but would not expel the Belgrade authorities from the United Nations. The European nations hope thus to avert a Russian veto.

● **Peking:** Milan Panic, the prime minister of the rump of Yugoslavia, said here yesterday that China had agreed to send his country humanitarian aid. He was hoping it would also agree to send oil for heating homes and hospitals.

British troops to go, page 15
Leading article, page 15

UN COMMAND



Morillon: following in the footsteps of Marshal Foch

French general to lead UK troops

BY JAMES BONE

THE British troops sent to join the newly enlarged United Nations peacekeeping force in Bosnia-Herzegovina will be placed under the command of a French general.

Although details of the deployment of the estimated 1,800 British troops have not yet been finalised, diplomats say that Major General Philippe Morillon, deputy head of the UN Protection Force (Unprofor) in the former Yugoslav republics, will assume command of all UN peacekeeping forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Working under General Sir Nambiar, the Indian who is overall head of Unprofor in both Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, General Morillon will organise the 6,000 new UN troops into four sectors to supplement the 1,500 UN troops already in Sarajevo.

General Morillon is an engineer and tank officer who has spent much of his career in staff positions. He becomes the first French officer to command British troops since Marshal Foch in the first world war. He was appointed commander of the first Armoured Division in 1989 and then, as general, appointed chief of staff to the commanding general of the First Army.

He made the headlines last week when he denounced the Bosnians for attacking his men. He called the attack "a clear provocation by people who are enormously upset by the possibility of peace and determined to remain at war".

When he has organised the four sectors, Britain, France, Spain and Canada will each assume responsibility for one of them, with Britain, the largest troop contributor, likely to get the largest sector. Each country will deploy an infantry battalion group, including headquarters staff, two armoured reconnaissance companies, two armoured infantry companies, and an engineer sub-unit for route and mine clearance.

Belgium, Denmark, The Netherlands and Portugal will contribute smaller numbers of support troops to the opera-

Desert Rats readied to boost UN forces

BY MICHAEL EVANS

THE Cheshire Regiment, part of the Desert Rats 7th Armoured Brigade, will form the core of the 1,800-man battalion group to be dispatched from Germany to Bosnia-Herzegovina. The battalion group will boost the United Nations military presence guarding humanitarian relief convoys to Sarajevo and other towns under siege.

Based at Fallingbommel in northern Germany, the regiment whose motto is "I Serve" has been on standby for deployment since John Major announced last month that Britain was to send up to 1,800 troops for UN duties. The regiment's strength is 650 men and its role is to act as armoured infantry.

The regiment, which has a



300-year history, is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Bob Stewart, and has only recently been equipped with Warrior infantry fighting vehicles, armed with 30mm cannon, and is new to the armoured infantry role. Eight months ago, it was based in Chester as a general purpose unit equipped with Land Rovers and other wheeled vehicles. It then went to Germany and took over the armoured infantry role from The Staffordshire Regiment. Since being put on standby for duty in the Yugoslav conflict, the regiment has been training to act as armoured convoy escorts.

Lt Col Stewart is due to fly next week as head of a reconnaissance party of 12 to examine routes for the convoys and survey the location where his troops will be based. The Sandhurst-trained commander is regarded as an erudite man and is highly respected. Married with two children, Lt Col Stewart, 43, served as military attaché to the NATO military committee in Brussels before becoming commander of the Cheshire Regiment in March last year. He has also served as a platoon commander with the Cheshires in Bahrain, Malaysia, Berlin and Northern Ireland.

The Cheshire Regiment, teamed with the other elements of the battalion group, has been rehearsing for its new role as armoured convoy escorts at the Sennelager computerised command training system. The regiment has previously served several tours in Northern Ireland and its experience of south Armagh's "bandit country" will prove an advantage in Bosnia, where the soldiers will have to confront local warlords.

The regiment was first formed as the Duke of Norfolk's Regiment in 1689. It is claimed that the Cheshires saved King George II from being captured by the French



Bound for Bosnia: Lt Col Bob Stewart will lead a reconnaissance team

at Dettingen in 1743 by protecting him under an oak tree. The regimental badge, an acorn and oak leaf, dates from then. The king is said to have plucked a twig from the tree and handed it to the soldiers, asking them to wear the emblem in memory of their gallant conduct.

The Cheshires were also part of the force engaged to quell the Boxer rebellion in Peking before seeing action in the Boer war. It also served in the great campaigns of the two world wars. During the first world war it took part in the battle of Mons in 1914 and

gained honours in almost every theatre of operations from Flanders to Palestine. The second world war desert campaigns in North Africa earned it the Desert Rat sobriquet as it fought Rommel and then took part in the invasion of Italy.

The Cheshires are due to be amalgamated with The Staffordshire Regiment next year under the government's "Options for Change" defence cuts. The regiment's home base at Dale Barracks was built in 1988; that was the first time the soldiers were based in their home city.

Milosevic plots the downfall of Panic

FROM DESSA TREVISAN AND TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

MILAN Panic, the exuberant, Serbian-American millionaire prime minister of the rump Yugoslavia, has overtaken Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, in opinion-poll ratings. But while Mr Panic, now in Peking, is seeking signs of international support, Mr Milosevic has launched a scheme he hopes will lead to his opponent's downfall.

Under the constitution of the Yugoslavia of only Serbia and Montenegro, power has shifted from republican presidents to the federal prime minister. By resuming his role as leader of the Socialist party, Mr Milosevic could take over Mr Panic's position if the party remains the largest in

SERBIA

parliament after November's general elections.

Regional branches of the Serbian Socialist party have recently begun clamouring for Mr Milosevic to become party president again. He gave up the job because the constitution forbids the Serbian president from simultaneously holding other posts.

In an attempt to counter Mr Panic's growing popular support, the Serbian government has decreed that, while sanctions are in force, workers cannot be sacked, which has led to a struggle for the mint. The government has printed millions in worthless money to pay workers who have no work; Mr Panic argues that he cannot run the economy without control of the money supply.

Mr Panic, who became prime minister only two months ago and has no political organisation of his own, has signalled that he would be prepared to lead Serbia's quarrelsome opposition in November if asked. Vesna Pesic, the leader of one small party, has called on the rest of the opposition to accept Mr Panic's challenge.

Western policymakers cannot lift sanctions without results to show for their imposition and cannot apply new ones without undermining the prime minister.

Danger hides in border town half at peace, half at war

BEHIND THE LINES

Citizens say the West forgot northern Bosnia, Edward Gorman writes in Slavonki Brod

under the table as the charges exploded near by.

The majority Croatian community and the Serb minority here do not understand why UN monitoring arrangements, now in place in Sarajevo, Jajce and Bihac, do not include Slavonki Brod, the Croatian town that is being attacked more than any other.

Yesterday at eight minutes to two precisely, the crump of heavy artillery announced the latest salvo directed at the centre of the town where scores of shops, homes and offices have been wrecked. The hospital reports that at least 70 people, including 25 children, have been killed in the city since March and hundreds more wounded. At the Croatian information centre, where staff await the arrival of journalists travelling the deserted highway from Zagreb, we crouched

this border area to concentrate instead on the siege of Sarajevo. "The EC and the UN have been set up by Milosevic's trap," he said. "Nobody knows about the massacres of Bosnia and Herzegovina in towns like Tuzla, Banja Luka and close to Sarajevo."

One reason why Slavonki Brod has been forgotten is because it is not cut off from its Croatian hinterland and thus cannot claim to be fully under siege. Nevertheless, it is an eerie place, half at war and half at peace. "You think it is so wonderful and peaceful," said Sonja Lukic, aged 26, whose husband is fighting at the front. "And then you hear some shooting and

it reminds you that you are in the middle of the war."

At the Arcade Bar, opposite the hospital, the windows are boarded and covered by sandbags, but inside it, business is booming. Dire Straits and Cher's latest album take turns on the music system that plays loud enough to obscure the sound of incoming artillery fire.

The customers include wounded soldiers with bandages around their heads gingerly sipping orange juice, exhausted fighters just back from the front, and the youth of Slavonki Brod who have elected not to fight, dressed for peace in Hawaiian shirts and jeans. Vinko Barisic, 26, the manager, sporting an ear ring and a slicked hairstyle, is one of those who has no interest in taking part in the killing. "War is for primitive people," he said. "War does not make sense."

The outlook for Slavonki Brod is bleak. Nobody believes that its ordeal will end



soon. Ivan Balen, the director of the hospital where 13 new patients arrive in the basement operating theatre every day, believes that the fighting could last for up to three years. "I do not see any possibility to end this," he said. "I do not know how it could happen because the Serbs are so strong and they have so much equipment."

● **Geneva:** The International Committee of the Red Cross evacuated 68 sick and wounded former inmates of two notorious Serb-run camps in Bosnia-Herzegovina and flew them to Britain for hospital care. Virtually all

were Slavic Muslim civilians, rounded up as part of "ethnic cleansing" in the former Yugoslav republic now mostly controlled by Serb rebels, a Red Cross spokesman, Claude Voillot, said.

Co-operation by all sides in the Bosnian war made the evacuation possible, the Red Cross said. It followed their agreement in London last month on the unconditional release of all civilian detainees.

The Swiss-run committee, which acts as an intermediary in war, said it regarded the operation as "the first step in this release process". The agency said it still has not received full details on camp locations and prisoner lists from the three sides.

The prisoners were held at the Manjaca and Trnopolje camps in northwestern Bosnia. M Voillot said. But the spokesman had no details on their ailments although he said there were several "serious cases". (AP)

Pakistan cities put on alert as flood waters hurtle south

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD
AND ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

SIX hundred thousand people in the city of Sukkur in Pakistan's Sindh province, where flood waters are expected to sweep through tomorrow, have been put on alert for evacuation. The government has already rescued half a million people from other flood threatened areas.

The Jhelum and Chenab rivers are cascading south after days of torrential rain, wreaking destruction along the way. They merge into the Indus in southern Punjab, and huge waves of water are expected to reach there simultaneously. Meteorologists have said a 60ft wall of water could devastate the area. The cities of Larkana and Dadu are also on alert. A state of emergency has been declared throughout Sindh.

The army has deployed 50,000 troops on engineering schemes, mostly involving the breaching of river banks to spread the flood waters around. Farmers, whose crops

have been ruined are furious, saying that they have been sacrificed to save cities like Sukkur and Multan in southern Punjab. Yesterday, more than 500 villages were inundated in Multan district, and several others washed away.

There are fears that a barrage in Sukkur, built by the British in 1932, could be swept aside, devastating Pakistan's most fertile farmlands. The barrage irrigates 215 million acres and is vital to the country's economy.

The death toll in Pakistan-ruled Azad (Free) Kashmir, the Northwest Frontier Province, and Punjab, is believed to be more than 2,000 and still rising. More than 300 villages along the banks of the Indus have been evacuated. This is the worst flooding in the country's recorded history.

Azad Kashmir has borne the brunt of the devastation, with not a bridge still standing nor a road intact. Rivers continue to burst their banks, creating havoc as the deluge moves through the country.

On the Indian side of Kashmir, thousands of people are stranded, because bridges there, too, have been destroyed and the death toll is rising. Monsoon clouds last night threatened more rain on both sides of the border.

The Pakistan government has been widely accused of incompetence in its handling of the crisis so far. Some politicians claim the BBC World Service had issued flood warnings three days before the official radio and television stations warned of the dangers. A newsreader who hinted at an official cover-up of the blunders is said to have been removed from his job. President Ishaq Khan has called the flooding a national calamity.

A village on an island in the Jhelum river in Kashmir was swept away, killing most of the 450 inhabitants. Islamabad, the capital, and the neighbouring city of Rawalpindi have been battered severely.

The devastating impact of the floods in Punjab, even if it got no worse, is already an economic disaster. Vital canal networks are threatened, posing grave damage to crops and people. Punjab, the most populous and richest of the provinces, is the breadbasket of Pakistan. The Punjab flood relief commission said that 900,000 acres of cotton had been destroyed, and about 50,000 acres of maize, 400,000 acres of rice and 45,000 acres of vegetables severely affected. Government agencies have estimated that at least two million acres of cropland had been damaged up to Monday night.

Relief camps have been established and the Pakistan air force is dropping supplies to stranded villages. The floods could have a serious political fallout for Mian Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister, whose popularity has been plunging. Benazir Bhutto, the opposition leader, who has been staging a comeback two years after being ousted from power, accused the government of criminal negligence.

ANC calls for end to deadlock

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN
IN JOHANNESBURG

NELSON Mandela, the president of the African National Congress, sounding much more moderate than of late in an interview, has called on Pretoria to work with him to "pull South Africa from the quagmire".

Mr Mandela urges President de Klerk to compromise by agreeing to a summit meeting in spite of the deaths at Bisho last week. Mr Mandela expresses his deep anxiety over the South African economy, saying: "We want to break the deadlock because if we don't, I fear that the economy is going to be so destroyed; that when a democratic government comes into power it will not be able to solve it."

Just three months ago the ANC president told his policy-making conference that the economy was already in such a bad shape that nothing the ANC could do in the way of mass action could damage it further. He told *The Star* in Johannesburg, that he had been frightened into changing his mind by a "well-considered statement" from Derek Keys, the South African finance minister.

Looters raise Somalia's starvation toll

FROM SAM KILEY IN BAIDERA

A GROUP of starving Somalis gathered to stare indifferently at the corpse of one of their Raha Weyn tribesmen who had collapsed and perished in the dust outside the small hospital run by one doctor in Baidera, the headquarters of General Aidid, Somalia's leading warlord.

"Who is going to bury this man?" they were asked. An onlooker so starved he could hardly stand waved an unsteady hand to a group of gunmen gathered outside the building used as a store for the United Nations Children's Fund which supplies the hospital with porridge to feed its patients. "Those men should be doing it but they are busy," he said.

The gunmen were fit and healthy teenagers toting a variety of machineguns. Some of them, arrogantly slouched over the barrel of a 106mm pack howitzer mounted on a Jeep, were helping themselves to a dozen sacks of the UN's porridge intended to save the vast number of children at death's door.

The scenario is typical of Somalia here, because of the 20-month civil war that has

reduced the country to anarchy, at least two million people are facing immediate death from starvation and another 2.5 million have a few months to live.

Earlier in the same day, a lorry was carrying food supplied by the International Committee of the Red Cross and intended for a remote village near the western town of Baidoa. A group of about 50 gunmen armed with RPG-7 anti-tank rockets languidly looted the truck, thereby ensuring the deaths of perhaps a couple of hundred more people. In Baidoa, about 400 die every day.

General Aidid, leader of a coalition of four armies known as the Somali National Alliance, insisted during an interview in a luxuriously appointed house in Baidera that aid agencies could distribute food safely in the country and that the looting were "isolated incidents carried out by uncontrolled elements".

But the only armed men in Baidoa and Aidid are his men. The United Nations Security Council is intending to send 3,000 troops to protect humanitarian relief operations and put an end to the



Tearful return: a Chinese woman, one of 19 whom Taiwan is deporting to China, pleading yesterday to be allowed to stay with her baby and Taiwanese husband

Defence spending cuts are put under election spotlight

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush and Bill Clinton both told a military group yesterday that cuts in defence spending are needed, but that the United States must retain the world's top military power.

Mr Bush told the annual National Guard Association convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, that as long as he is president the American armed forces will remain "the best trained, best led, best equipped fighting force in the world". He said that the world remained a dangerous place. The "Russian bear" may be gone, but threats remained.

He criticised his rival, Bill Clinton, for advocating defence cuts of \$60 billion (£3.7 billion) more than his own. The president added that he



"didn't come here" to attack Mr Clinton for avoiding the Vietnam draft 23 years ago, but questions about Mr Clinton's draft status mattered to voters because "we can never forget that we ask our president to lead the military". Mr Bush spoke of his experience

as a pilot during the second world war and as commander in chief during the Gulf war, saying he thought he was better qualified to lead the nation at times of crisis.

Mr Clinton made no mention of the draft issue. He said that if elected he would make sure the country had the strength and resolve to ensure victory in any conflict. He echoed Mr Bush's line that, although the former Soviet Union was no longer a threat, unpredictable threats remained, mentioning President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, terrorism, regional clashes, and nuclear proliferation. He defended his larger defence cut proposals, saying that they were only 5 per cent more than the president's proposals.

Ross Perot, the businessman who dropped out of the presidential race, said yesterday that the economic strategies offered by both candidates were not specific enough and urged them to present "hard plans that people will buy". He added: "The thing they always underestimate is how smart the American people are. The American people understand what is going on. They understand shams and finesses..."

A Washington Post-ABC News poll published yesterday indicated that one in six voters would cast their ballots for Mr Perot even though he suspended his campaign in July. The figures were Mr Clinton, 45 per cent; President Bush, 33 per cent; and Mr Perot, 16 per cent. Without Mr Perot as a choice, the figures were Mr Clinton, 54 per cent and Mr Bush 39 per cent.

Fears linger after Lima rebel's arrest

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN LIMA

IN THE sprawling shanty towns that surround Lima, the news that Abimael Guzman, the brutal leader of the Sendero Luminoso (shining path) communist guerrillas, now languishes in jail has prompted a variety of reactions: fear of retaliation by the insurgents mixed with cautious relief.

Some simply do not believe that, after more than 12 years of violence and the death of about 27,000 people, Latin America's most feared terrorist is finally behind bars.

In Villa El Salvador, a shanty town on the edge of Lima, Valentín is convinced that the corrupt, bearded figure being paraded shirtless on Peruvian television is not Guzman, 57, but a police stooge. "He would never submit to this indignity," Valentín maintains before changing tack abruptly. "Maybe he is drugged. Yes, they probably drugged him."

The confusion reflects the

mythical aura, part fear, part admiration, that has built up around the shining path leader. Even now, shambolic and blinking under the police cameras, self-styled "president Gonzalo", the Maoist fanatic and former philosophy professor, evokes terror in many Peruvians because of his power to kill.

President Fujimori told a news conference yesterday that he would consider executing Guzman. "We must listen to what the public demands," he said.

In recent years, poverty-stricken neighbourhood such as Villa El Salvador have borne the brunt of the communist insurgency in Peru, in line with Maoist revolutionary ideology. More than half of the 293 terrorist attacks that took place in July occurred in Lima and, according to the police the shining path central committee recently transferred its centre of operation from the Andean Highlands to the Lima suburbs, a move that proved disastrous when 14 members of the group, including Guzman and other key leaders, were arrested here on Saturday night.

"Most people here are relieved that Guzman has been captured," a Western human rights worker who has worked in Lima's shanty towns said, "but they can't take any chances."

"There will be violence," a young woman said, "much violence." That is a view shared by most people in Peru, including politicians who have repeatedly warned of probable retaliation by the wounded terrorist movement.



Guzmán: captured leader of terror campaign

NEWS IN BRIEF

Governor briefs Major

London: Chris Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, yesterday outlined his plans for the future of the colony to John Major (David Watts writes).

Mr Patten is believed to have discussed the electoral system and the British response today to Chinese proposals for the financing of the new airport, which is expected to cost more than £11 billion. Mr Patten is already on record as wanting to advance the cause of democracy, much to the dislike of Peking.

"It is well known that we are seeing greater participation in Hong Kong. That is already happening and it is written into the basic laws as well," Mr Patten said. He is scheduled to make a policy address to the colony's legislature on October 7.

Kohl attack

Bonn: Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, strongly condemned skinhead gangs and those who clapped and cheered as they beat up foreigners. "They are a disgrace for our country, and that is how the vast majority of Germans feel," he said.

Nuclear barrier

Panmunjom: Chung Won Shik, South Korea's prime minister, told North Korea that relations between them cannot progress unless nuclear disputes are resolved. His speech pointed out the South's pessimism about this week's bilateral talks (AP).

Army orders

Peking: China's army, which killed hundreds of unarmed civilians when it opened fire on demonstrators here in 1989, has ordered that any future unrest should be stopped with minimum force. Warnings and baton charges are to be used first.

Pact agreed

Istanbul: Ismet Sezgin, the Turkish interior minister, returned from Tehran with an Iranian promise of co-operation in the fight against Kurdish separatists. In exchange, Ankara will be expected to curb the activities of Iranian exiles.

KGB 'smear'

Moscow: Kazimiera Prunskiene, the former prime minister of Lithuania, rejected a court finding that she had been an agent of the KGB. Mrs Prunskiene said the charge was part of a right-wing smear campaign ahead of next month's elections.

Children saved

Dhaka: Bangladeshi police detained a woman who works in Dubai when she tried to board an aircraft with two children who were to be sold as camel jockeys in the Middle East. Eight other children were freed and six other people detained. (Reuters)

Japanese tune in as favourite son pioneers science in space

FROM JOANNA PYTMAN IN TOKYO

Residents of the tiny fishing community of Yoichi on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido are proud to announce that they have finally made their mark on the universe. Mamoru Mori, Yoichi's most famous son, has become the first Japanese to fly on a US space mission, and the second Japanese astronaut ever to achieve lift-off.

Ever since Mr Mori took off from Cape Canaveral on Saturday aboard the space shuttle Endeavour, Japan has been treated to a blow by blow account of his every sneeze, scratch and swallow. On Monday pundits pronounced on his blinking frequency and yesterday discussed his choice of breakfast, prompting an amused discussion on commuter trains over whether his much-televised face had become a little bloated.

But Japan was relieved on Monday when Mr Mori made a telephone call to his wife and three children—and

the other 123 million Japanese listening in. "Hello Akiko, Ken, Taku and Yu," he said. "I am enjoying my flight. I am very busy with a lot of work to do and I hope you are all fine." Some of Yoichi's 25,000 proud residents again donned their mock spacesuits to celebrate another day successfully completed in space by their most distinguished neighbour.

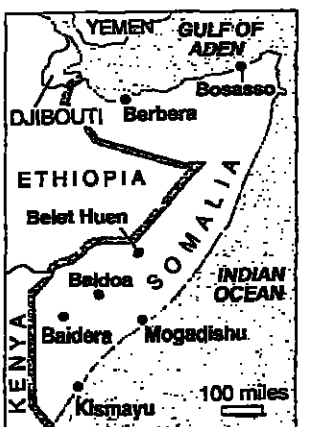
Excitement has been building in Yoichi's elementary school over the prospect this evening of a televised interactive lesson on weightlessness from Mr Mori in space. Every self-respecting five-year-old in town has been boning up on the finer points of the subject. Kiichi Miyazawa, the prime minister, has arranged to be in on the fun too, booking his own personal telephone call for Friday afternoon.

Japan has been heavily involved in this NASA shuttle launch, contributing \$90 mil-

lion to the \$363 million venture, and the finest minds of Japanese science have worked for ten years to prepare the experiments that Mr Mori is now performing.

Research into space sickness is his aim, and to that end 30 live carp were flown to the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida from a pond in central Japan in July, to take part in a rigorous knockout competition for inclusion in the Endeavour's living laboratory. Of the 23 that survived the flight from Tokyo, 16 carp contestants made it to the finals.

Two winners, both distinguished by their striking red scales with white spots, were selected, according to Shigeo Mori, a professor from Nagoya University, on the basis of their "easily analysed brain waves and their ability to dispel hysteria when kept in confined spaces". Mr Mori will conduct 34 experiments, testing the effects of weightlessness on the winning carps' gravity sensing organs.



grand theft of food; but they cannot do so without the agreement of the various warlords who are both profiting from the Somali holocaust and by so doing ensuring that it will continue until there are no Somalis left to feed.

"We do not need any more soldiers from the UN (in addition to 500 Pakistanis, the first of whom arrived this week to control the capital's port and airport). We have an 'excellent' and well trained police force and we can ensure security with our own people," said the general, a slightly overweight 56-year-old. "Somalia is a sovereign nation and we do not want interference from the UN."

The fanatical free marketeers

Bryan Appleyard is appalled to hear the views of young graduates

Personally, of course, I regret everything. But occasionally there are things one does of such rare, intense folly that they stand out from the usual wash of regrettable phenomena. This one involves the Conservative party, or, more precisely, that strange and terrible sub-group the Young Conservatives.

At the weekend I took part in a debate about religion, morality and the state with a group known as Conservative Graduates. On my side was Anne Widdecombe, the social services minister, who insisted, plausibly, I think, that the rapidly rising number of single parent families was the most urgent welfare problem of our day. They drain resources and, all the evidence suggests, they bring up a much higher proportion of delinquent and unstable children.

Certainly, she acknowledged, the welfare state may have done much to promote this problem. Housing

unrealistic and breathtakingly brutal. Both have a powerful, purely rhetorical logic and both obviate the need for political nuance.

The second point is that neither religion nor morality are involved. Any mention of God brought jeers of dissent from the preppies and Anne Widdecombe's insistence on the innocence of the children prompted sullen incomprehension. The minister, being a politician, tried to paper over this embarrassing crack by defining self-help as the basis of all conservative morality. But this was futile since the audience was clearly too bigoted and cruelly lacking in self-doubt for the idea of morality to be remotely convincing.

The roots of this new brutality are clearly enough the Thatcherism of the Eighties. Lady Thatcher's free market instincts and all the accompanying intellectual justifications have been embraced as definitive. But the new right literature of the Eighties has been very selectively edited. The other, more complex area of thought that these young have blue-pencilled in their minds concerned the viability of institutions, the nature of education and the symbolism and coherence of society — none of which can be debated by minds wholly in thrall to free-market fundamentalism. The real right, the thoughtful

Their ruthless views echo the Trotskyism and Maoism that gripped students in the Sixties and Seventies

right, knows this. It also knows that knee-jerk triumphalism about the destruction of socialist rationalism is no longer enough. That battle has been won. Arthur Scargill is now a clown, not a dangerous insurrectionist and Che Guevara is long dead. What counts now is not the defence of capitalism but its definition: the containment of its fragmentary tendencies and the sustenance of the culture that created it.

Merely waving free-market banners and guffawing at God is a way of avoiding all these problems. Most urgently it is a way of avoiding the — to the preppies — painful truth that the free market frequently bears fruits that are offensive to the free marketeers themselves, such as children begging on the streets or a depraved popular culture. If you do not like such things, it is dishonest not to try and work out why, and that leads you far away from simple, brutalist economics.

But, of course, they were young and they liked to clap and cheer at big, simple ideas. If they do try to become MPs it is unlikely their absolutism will survive even the first fringes of the selection process. Self-interest in the Tory shires can prove remarkably subtle and strangely anti-liberalism.

We should leave the young Tories to their fantasies. They are beyond help and sadly unattractive. Perhaps Norman Fowler should consider, even if only on aesthetic grounds, restricting party membership to the over-thirties. At least then I could lapse into a life of more bearable regrets.

Philip Howard on the indiscreet letters of the poet who captured the bad joke of life

Larkin from the grave

Philip Larkin hit a nerve for the post-war generation with his poetry of contemporary and distinctly unregimented melancholy, resignation, spiky wit and public confession of what most people think, but few dare to admit so disarmingly. The first selection of his letters, coming from his publisher, Faber, this autumn, is going to strike nerves and funny-bones all over the literary world. Because they were not written for publication, and because Larkin was who he was, they are wonderfully indiscreet, wildly debunking, rude, politically incorrect, and fully frontal revealing. They are more abusive than the memoirs of his chum and sparring partner, Sir Kingsley Amis, funnier than those of John Osborne, and far more revealing than the dry, clerical letters of T.S. Eliot.

Kingsley Amis was considered unkind for publishing that Larkin never married because he was too mean to go courting. Larkin, who died in 1985, got his own back with a vengeance. "The only reason I hope to predecease him [Sir Kingsley], is that I find it impossible to say anything nice about him at his

memorial service." It is sporting of Faber to publish some of these letters, for the firm is itself a regular target for Larkin's derision. "Ted [Hughes] the Incredible Hulk, Seamus [Heaney] the Gormless", and other Faber stars come in for regular abuse. In a letter to Robert Conquest, he writes: "Craig Raine is running Faber poetry, and to my mind indulging some pretty fearful talents. But there is no poetry nowadays. No one has any ear. Another load of crap from the Vikram Seth character, known to you I believe. Quite pleasant stuff, but fails to grip. Comes of being an oriental I suspect. Outside, a dog barks/ Swinging from your prick. I muse/ On Wang-Lai's lyrics. Not my cup of tea."

His letters will be a cup of gin for those who like naughtiness. Here he is in 1984, writing to Charles Osborne, then secretary of the Poetry Book Society: "Dear Mr Osborne, I am fond of poetry and

should like to join the Poetry Book Society. I hope that you publish

Patent Storm, she is my favorite, next to Ted Hughes of course. Yours respectfully P.A. Larkin (Mrs)"

Larkin was a prolific correspondent. Letters replaced human contact for him. In an unfinished poem of August 1953, he wrote: "I know, none better. The uselessness of days without a letter."

And in his bleak poem, "Aubade", written towards the end of his life, there is the final line: "Postmen like doctors go from house to house."

For Larkin, as for many lonely people, some of whom write regularly to newspapers, there was the daily comfort of epistolary life, and letters through the post.

In spite of the jokes and masks and registers that Larkin put on, the letters expose him consistently, and charmingly. Books, poems, jazz, cricket, drink, the daily grind

of "the road, work", exasperation with friends and colleagues, gossip about them, depression at the state of the world and of himself, abomination of "niggers" and the working class, a frustrated search for high-quality pornography, interest in whatever interested his correspondent, delight in his occasional delights. Even when joking, he told the truth as he saw it, in his letters as in his poems.

As a recurrent theme of comic relief there are reports from the front on the Larkin waistline. 1978: "As a result of overeating and — drinking am now precariously perched on the wagon, vowed to a month of abstinence in an attempt to shift my great sagging belly that is beginning to arouse public comment. None of my clothes fit either: when I sit down my tongue comes out." 1983 (to Roy Goodwin): "I don't know about being photographed again: I now have three conditions that photographers

must promise to observe in what they print: I am not bald, I have only one chin, my waist is concave. And this means that about the only picture of me now available is full-face head-and-shoulders, chin up, in dark shade."

Whatever other writer's blocks and black dogs he suffered, Larkin always went on writing letters, looking at himself and the human condition with graveyard humour. He may indeed have been, as he observed, part "of the last generation to write to each other". He may have been, in the words of his fictitious American biographer: "One of those old-type natural fouled-up guys". But it was worth it. His letters, like his poetry, are life-enhancing and a delight, and a fine epigraph to his age — Give me your arm, old toad; help me down Cemetery Road. Like no poet since Yeats, the librarian of Hull spoke to people in their voice and vernacular with the nuances and humour of the age. And now, as a treat in stone, here come these letters from beyond the grave, utterly Larkin-esque, indignant and sad and truth-telling, and wildly funny about the bad joke of life.

Why the Liberals must go

Lib Dems are a barrier to change, says Simon Jenkins

Are the Liberals really as harmless as they seem? This week they are staggering through another empty conference, waving another daft slogan ("Facing up to the Future") and pretending that hope will yet triumph over bitter experience. The party today debates its reaction to a fourth election in which it has handed the Tories victory on a plate. It will do so by howling down even the most tentative dialogue with Labour.

"We are the only credible advocates of radical change," cries Des Wilson. "No pacts," cries Paddy Ashdown. To what purpose?

The total failure of the British Liberal party in the past quarter century is the great undiscussable of politics. Friend and foe alike seem comfortable to have this bag of bones to poke amiable fun at each year. The BBC props it up with silly "three-way debates". Papers appear with titles such as "Challenge, Opportunity, Responsibility". Mr Ashdown moons on like Cyrano de Bergerac in the bougainvillea, watching balefully as his rivals shin up the balcony and carry off the prize. If the Liberals did not exist, nobody would begin to invent them.

Each new twist in post-war politics should have been a boon to this party: the collapse of working-class loyalty to Labour, the political "estrangement" of the 1960s and 1970s, the growth of devolutionism in Scotland and Wales, the identity shift to single-interest groups. On none of these have Liberals built a distinctive badge, even when over seven million protest voters were using it as an electoral dustbin in the 1980s.

They whinge about the unfairness of the voting system. But rules are rules. The way to beat first-past-the-post is to rig it with a pact. This is how the Liberals produced the Progressive Alliance with Labour in 1906, yielding the most stunning



anti-Tory victory of the 20th century: only 157 Tories won seats. Ever since the rise of Social Liberalism in the 1890s, the convergence of the two parties of the left awaited only the loosening of the bond between Labour and the unions. This finally took place under Neil Kinnock. In last May's election, only a pedant could distinguish the Liberal from the Labour programme.

Third parties have their uses in any two-party system, either as centrist dustbins or to oppose or espouse some Big Idea when the main parties are in alliance and the public has no choice. Just occasionally they can use such an idea to pursue a new electoral fault line. The Social Democrats thought they could do this by "breaking the mould" in 1981. They found they were simply a better class of dustbin.

I believe such a fault could now be opening in European politics, though whether in Britain is still moot. Last week a nation genuinely divided on Maastricht ratification

and on devaluation had to watch all three-party leaders form a tripartite coalition to support the government's exchange rate policy, one that even enthusiasts would admit was controversial. Each leader in turn queued up to deride the "quick fix merchants", the referendum lobbyists, the Maastricht opponents, as little short of unpatriotic. Such tripartism is normally confined to nations at war.

Worry over this new coalition is visible in both Labour and Liberal ranks. But the real fault line lies where Margaret Thatcher detected it in 1975, deep within the Conservatives. It is between the traditional "party of government", sheltering beneath the skirts of the Treasury, Downing Street and the whips office, and the natural opposition to this ministerial establishment, once championed by Mrs Thatcher but now leaderless. The fault line does not gap: Mr Major is too good a party manager for that. But it has widened under him as the gap between him and the formal

Opposition has narrowed. Last week's coalition must widen it further. There is about Westminster now a bleak, we must hope, temporary, echo of 1931, of Tories, Liberals and Labour trapped in a recessionary mode by central bankers, fixed exchange rates and a terror of criticism. Sadly we have no Keynes, only Burke's sophists, economists and calculators, all now in government employ.

Over against them are the little platoons, the sceptics, the haters of bureaucrats, anti-Maastricht, thoroughly cussed. Here are the small businessmen of the service industries who did well under Mrs Thatcher and are doing dreadfully badly in the slump. They are not little Englanders against free trade, but they are against the public and private monopolists who in their view have Whitehall and Brussels on strings. They owe no party loyalty. They are easy prey for demagoguery. Out of desperation they flocked to Mosley in 1931. Many of the same embraced the

SDF in the 1981 recession: tears looking for a fresh shoulder to moisten.

Europe's leaders have not just ignored this disillusioned constituency, in the nine months since Maastricht they have scorned and abused it. The Danes hit back. So, soon, will the Italians. France and Germany have seen the resurgence of new parties of the far right. Recession has produced similar antibodies in America: that the implausible Ross Perot could do so well was more significant than that he personally failed. There is here a sort of Big Idea for the Nineties, but the Liberals want no part of it.

When Ross Perot was riding high in the summer, Mr Ashdown was much taken with his platform, notably his anti-centralist "empowerment" theme (Mr Ashdown adores jargon). But Liberals could not stomach the rest of the package, least of all Mr Perot's enthusiasm for free markets and his hatred of government.

The Liberals' failure leaves them two painful choices, both of some importance to the electoral map of Britain. They can follow the logic of recent history, renew the Progressive Alliance and help out the Tories. Or they can stay faithful to their third party role: go for the Big Idea, fight bureaucratic centralism, oppose the burgeoning European cartel, champion the individual against the state.

Elsewhere in Europe the electoral exploitation of this idea has taken extreme nationalist forms. The Liberal tradition could be a restraint on such extremism, a safety valve to warn mainstream politicians that have drifted too far from the public. But this will only happen if the Liberals have the appropriate guts. If they do not, and should recession rot the heart and should the Conservative out of John Major's Conservatism, something very nasty might emerge from the post-Maastricht woodwork.



...and moreover ALAN COREN

Of all the myriad wonders on which Crickwood's transglobal renown is deservedly founded, there is perhaps none worthier than her Institute for Social Inventions. Housed at 20 Hever Road NW2, the ISI is committed to nothing less than the perpetual search to improve man's lot upon this hapless planet by spotting the potential of stuff anyone might find in the average dustbin and, with a tin-sack here and a reef-knot there, deploying it to the benefit of less fortunate humankind. No challenge great or small, from, say, building a battered husband's refuge out of old cotton-reels, to boiling down unwanted rabbit-skins into a handy fixative guaranteed to stop Third World denunciations from rattling in even the stiffest nor'easter, remains untried.

Above all, in an era distinguished for the manufacture of rubbish both physical and spiritual, the Institute offers the concomitant chance of bipolar redemption, since anyone prepared to take a gutful of contemporary jettison and selflessly spend his day recycling it into some boon for the needy will soon feel his soul soar above the tacky bonds of earth. There is nothing like spray-painting an assortment of Big Mac cartons and Carlsberg cans and stringing them above an orphan's cot to set a man's feet on the path to beatification.

Mind you, you have to be a dab hand with gum and hammer. For some time now, the Institute has been sending me its newsletter, and I have to report that my ratio of execution to inspiration is

disappointingly low. Much as I'd love to take a dozen Madonna albums and melt them into a dinner service fit to grace any Oxfam window, or separate from their scrapped camshaft the corks crying out to be converted into sturdy door-knockers so hard-of-hearing OAPs would not miss their wheeled meals, these and many another altruistic cobble have proved beyond my talent.

Which is why I view the upcoming Natural Death Dinner with some unease. On September 27, the Institute is convening what their latest burst describes as a gourmet meal with wine for £12, a bargain I should normally snap up, were it not for the post-prandial topic, a discussion on "DIY Funerals" in preparation for which the Institute has circulated us with a digest of potential themes, viz:

Flat-pack coffin: Richard Hoskin Workshops offer a flatpack coffin from £35 plus delivery, made of MDF, ply or veneer. Making our own coffins. Barbara Huelin writes: My husband has recently finished building our coffin, in blockboard, at a cost of £50 each (not including our time). They are painted green and have nautical-looking rope handles. We have booked a double-decker site in the local council cemetery for £100, to which family and friends will bear us.

Fruit tree planted over body. Often, in the back country of Montana, a hole will be dug and the body in a plain pine coffin will be lowered in. Instead of a tombstone, a fruit tree is planted over the body. In the years to follow, eating the fruit will be like partaking in the loved one.

Um. While I applaud all this, and certainly don't wish my corpse to run up a huge post-mortem bill for having its golden casket trotted to its bespoke Richard Rogers mausoleum by six St Leger winners, I nevertheless spot a major snag in the Institute's cheap alternative: given a lifetime's toolbox experience, can my deathtime's one be any better? Just as I have unpacked many a flatpacked thing and screwed it three-dimensional only to have it immediately fall flat again, so I have ruined more blockboard than most people have had gourmet dinners. As for nautical-looking rope handles, mine would not look nautical long: I have watched too many rowboats drift away from their bollards to have much confidence that, as family and friends bore me to my plot, my handles would not unravel, leaving my wonky ill-nailed blockboard flanks to drop, dismantle, and render their contents an embarrassment to all.

And when it comes to planting a fruit tree over me, once family and friends have scooped me back into the wheelbarrow, there is no question but that, on my past horticultural record, the item I have pre-mortally ordered from the garden centre will turn out to have scab, mildew, leaf-curl, canker, and savillies; if, indeed, it is not already dead when I am.

You wouldn't want to eat anything growing on it. Unless, that is, you were so Green you hated the idea of a double-decker plot going to waste.

Pavilioned in concrete

THE cancellation of John Major's visit to the Expo World Fair in Seville is a blessing in disguise to those running the British pavilion. The state of the pavilion, still referred to in Spain as "the house that Mrs Thatcher built", is as parlous as Britain's economy.

Last week the pavilion's souvenir shop, run by Joanna Bickerton and Associates Ltd of Shrewsbury, went into receivership, and many local suppliers say they have not been paid by the pavilion's restaurant and bar, managed by Lionheart of London. The Expo concessionaires blame the DTI which, they claim, sold the concessions on a wildly optimistic prospectus.

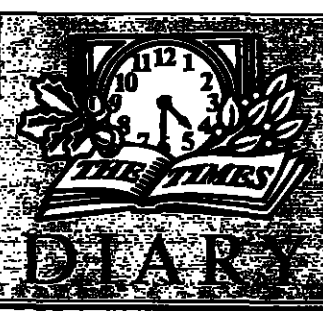
Emilio Cassinello, the commissioner general of Expo, yesterday released figures which appeared to confirm the view that the British pavilion has become a £14 million steel and glass white elephant. Out of 31 million visitors to Expo since April, only 1.75 million visitors have entered the British pavilion. Nearly four million by contrast have visited the French pavilion.

Nor do the problems end there. Much has been made of the fact that the British pavilion is portable. It isn't. A director now says that the Spanish authorities forced the builders to fill the tubular frame with concrete to prevent the spread of fire and as a result the costs of transporting the edifice will now prove prohibitive.

The British embassy yesterday said Major's visit was cancelled. Downing Street said it was merely "postponed". We shall see.

Des res, £6m

TIMES are hard, even for multi-millionaire former executive mem-



bers of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Javid al-Husseini, the father of Mona Bauwens — currently suing The People over the newspaper's criticism of her holiday with David Mellor and his family — is finding it nigh impossible to sell his mansion in Bishops Avenue, Hampstead.

The house, called Sunningdale, is where Bauwens has been pictured in the press wearing a leotard and sitting astride a rocking horse. It was discreetly put on the market by Saville's at a cool £6 million but has failed to attract a single buyer. "Our instructions are to keep it on the market. They want to sell," says Noel de Keyser, for the estate agents. "The father doesn't spend much time here and Mona Bauwens spends most of her time in her Mayfair flat. They have tended to treat this more like a country house."

Whipped out

AS LIBERAL Democrats debated the legalisation of prostitution at their Harrogate conference yesterday one of the nation's best known madames, Lindi St Clair, was denied a starring role. Ms St Clair, leader of the self-styled Corrective Party, had been invited by party officials to address the conference in the full glare of the television cameras. When Paddy Ashdown heard he was appalled and

promptly vetoed the idea.

"It would have been the Lindi St Clair show," said a close aide. "Nobody would have been interested in what we had to say on the subject, which is a serious issue." Ashdown was particularly worried that St Clair would reveal that she had written to the Liberal Democrat leader offering him a copy of her "dirt file". In her autobiography, to be published next week, she says: "This contains times, dates and places, with corroborating photographs and videos of Labour and Conservative MPs who frequent prostitutes." The file covers 204 MPs, she said yesterday, and is not salacious but merely part of her

campaign to legalise prostitution. In return she says she asked Ashdown for a safe Lib Dem seat. He declined the offer.

Yesterday St Clair could not hide her disappointment at being banned from the debate. "I am the only one who could have spoken from experience," she says. "Instead I have sent them a 10-minute video to give them an insight into what life is like inside my brothel, which I have run for 20 years without complaint. And I still think Paddy is wonderful."

campaign to legalise prostitution. In return she says she asked Ashdown for a safe Lib Dem seat. He declined the offer.

Meanwhile Paddy Ashdown was overheard in a conference bar discussing the future of another rebel, David Alton, who announced that he would not be able to stand as a Liberal Democrat MP again because of the conference vote on abortion. A delegate suggested to Ashdown that they put him on a ship and send him off to Ireland, where he might feel at home. "That's no good," quipped the Liberal Democrat leader. "He would walk back on the water."

Sober success

BEFROCKED by Berketex, coiffured by John Frieda and bejewelled by Laurence Cost, 30 debutantes including Lady Tryon's daughter, Zoe, curtsied and waited their way through the night on Monday at Queen Charlotte's Birthday Ball in the presence of the Duchess of Somerset.

Lady Tryon, who was ill and thus unable to watch her daughter's coming out but the evening was deemed a great success by the organisers, including actress Patricia Hodge, who noted that there was a particularly "nice breed of girl" present.

There was none of the drunkenness or loutish behaviour which has marred the occasion in the past. The only moment when high spirits threatened to get out of hand was during Michael Ball's cabaret when there was much screaming and garter-throwing to a Tom Jones number.

The occasion was also blessed with the presence of Peter Townend, Trotter's social guru, who ignored the event last year, allegedly on the grounds that he had become too gauche. "This year's ball was a great success and raised an awful lot of money for charity," says Townend. "It's not just silly girls making fools of themselves you know."





POLITICS BEFORE PRIDE

John Major is a proud and stubborn man. These are qualities which in many political circumstances count as virtues. When he is in the last week of an election or in a long battle against inflation he has the character necessary for victory. In the past few days Mr Major has put everything bar the threat to resign his job behind the commitment to maintain a single value of sterling. If the markets were to demand such a commitment, the prime minister might even now be proud and stubborn enough to give it. He might offer up even his own office as the proof that a prime minister and his pound should stand or fall together.

In the estimation of any rational observer, however, that would be an unwelcome, unnecessary and ridiculous gesture. There is growing concern that Mr Major is approaching just such a position. Mere contemplation of its absurdity should force Mr Major to realise the danger.

The prime minister is risking his career, the future accomplishments of his administration and his responsibility to lead Europe into a new co-operative order. He is risking all this not for something he passionately believes in, not for a future of sound money and social justice, but for a pound worth 2.7780 marks.

If the French vote for Maastricht on Sunday, Mr Major can struggle on with his battle against the money markets. He may well succeed, at least for while. If the French vote against, there will begin a new era in European affairs. Britain will have the opportunity to lead the renaissance of a Europe whose path is chosen by national peoples not international bureaucrats. The EC Commission laws can be curbed. Overweening European laws can be burnt in a bonfire showing what "subsidiarity" might truly mean.

Mr Major, as potentially the most secure leader in the Community and as its temporary president, would have the unique

opportunity to build British values into the heart of the new order. But to seize it he must think again about the policy that even some among his senior economic advisers see as putting pride before politics.

Mr Major need make no apologies about his commitment to controlling inflation. There is plenty of room for debate about precisely how much emphasis should be given to this, but the goal of stable prices is among the most honourable for any politician. Let the prime minister be emphatic about it. Let him live to fight throughout the community for freer markets and lower public spending.

No single value for sterling can be the necessary or sufficient condition for a strategy against phoney money. He must admit that truth. His enemies will attempt to rub his nose in past statements. His friends — certainly those gathered at Brighton for next month's party conference — will forgive. The reduction of interest rates is the news for which the country is waiting and for which the Tories will give their ovations.

Yesterday the signals from Whitehall were mixed. Downing Street produced a list of impressive tasks to explain why the prime minister had suddenly to abandon a foreign trip. Even in an exchange dealers' culture where truth was long ago the casualty this was an exercise in evasion.

Mr Major was not wasting hours on the council tax, the claims of high-spending ministers or the future of Hong Kong. He was pondering his next move in the drama that dominates all things. Until Sunday he is probably safe. The Bank of England can spend its reserves to protect sterling from the worst ravages of the market place.

Britain is not in the parlous state represented by Italy. But after Sunday Mr Major must be ready to make the most important decisions of his life. He must not be shackled to a dogma that is already dead.

THE COUNTRY'S BACKING

The government's dispatch of 1,800 troops to the war zone in Bosnia-Herzegovina pushes Britain to the forefront of the international effort to enforce peace in former Yugoslavia. In contrast to the warnings of creeping intervention and foot-dragging caution that marked British diplomacy for the best part of a year, the government is vigorously backing its initiative in calling the London conference with a readiness to risk lives in the Balkan maelstrom. After France, Britain will have the largest contingent of troops in the area.

This is right. There are few close ties of history or culture between Britain and Yugoslavia. But as a permanent member of the security council and holding the presidency of the European Community, Britain has a particular responsibility in helping resolve one of the most intractable conflicts now preoccupying the UN and the EC.

Yugoslavia is now squarely in the centre of British politics. No longer is it a faraway country whose Byzantine vendettas can be ignored: it is a war that has come close to the homes of hundreds of British service families, one where British commanders may be crucial to the outcome of a conflict that has already become the bloodiest engagement in Europe since the second world war. Yet troops have been committed with barely a word of explanation to the country. It has been left to television to convince the public that the awfulness must be stopped; snatched interviews with Foreign Office ministers have been the only preparation for yesterday's announcement. The government has flatly rejected demands for a recall of Parliament, insisting that no emergency debate is necessary.

British troops should never be sent to risk their lives without a convincing explanation why they should do so. That explanation should be given to the House of Commons, the forum in which all government policy is accountable. And John Major or Malcolm Rifkind must tell the country what the exact role of the troops will be.

OXFORD ASPIRATIONS

Oxford was holding a conference against elitism yesterday, an occasion that sounds like the College of Arms running a seminar on republicanism. Elitism, seeking the best in scholarship and science, is what Oxford is there for. Over the centuries its success has been such that there is hardly a human activity that has not been enriched by Oxford. In running a university, as in selecting an orchestra or picking a cricket team, elitism — in spite of its politically incorrect overtones — must be the right policy. Oxford wants the best, and for nine centuries it has got what it wants.

The elitism that the Oxford Access Scheme is campaigning against is the common charge that Oxford is the haven of middle-class children from well-off homes and public schools, and that the path to the dreaming spires is steeper for those from less privileged backgrounds. It wants a policy of reverse discrimination in favour of children from working-class and ethnic backgrounds, to help them up the crowded path.

Yet the percentage of children from state schools coming up to Oxford this year is 42.8, a slight increase on last year. The percentage from independent schools is 48.6, also a slight increase. (The remainder are mainly from foreign sources.) This proportion has been steady for several years.

Any system of direct reverse discrimination would be as unfair as the corrupt old methods of founder's kin and places reserved for the gilded youth, particularly for those whose fathers had friends on high tables. This class elitism faded long ago, though it persists strongly in the literature and folklore, to Oxford's continuing detriment.

In the long run reverse discrimination would not work. Elton started as a college for 70 poor scholars, until the English middle classes recognised a good education when they saw one. If the easy road to Oxford were through a comprehensive, the ambitious middle-classes would remove their children to such schools for their sixth-form years. Intellectual elitism on merit is the only fair policy for Oxford in 1992.

The trouble with Oxford entry is that it is more self-selecting and self-rejecting than that for other universities. Too many children (and schools and career-advisers) instinctively rule out Oxford as an option because of its damaging and obsolete mythology as the home of lost members of the Brideshead generation, and as being impossibly oversubscribed. In fact, there were only three candidates for each of the 3,184 places awarded by the colleges this year.

Because the famous public schools are brilliant at coaching candidates for exams, however, Oxbridge colleges need to rely also on interview in depth, and on reports from their network of contacts in schools to detect potential beneath the A levels. The colleges are realising that such networks need to be enlarged to embrace the state sector.

That is the righteous Oxford elitism, searching out the best from whatever background. Oxford is right to advertise its attractions in schools and among children that do not yet recognise them. But any quota system of reverse discrimination in favour of the disadvantaged would be as unfair as the snobbery it is supposed to reverse. There should be no shortcuts: not for the privileged nor for the underprivileged.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Freeing the pound and controlling the deutschmark

From Lord Boyd-Carpenter

Sir, I hope that your leading article, "Free the pound" (September 14), will be taken seriously by those now in charge of the Treasury, whatever the result of the French referendum. The argument for attaching the pound to the ERM (exchange-rate mechanism) was that doing so would eliminate alarms and crises. The outcome has been that we have had plenty of both.

Moreover, the policy of tying the pound to a strict parity with other currencies is clearly disadvantageous to our economy. If, as used to be the case, the exchange value of sterling moved freely in the light of the state of the economy, this movement had a stabilising and corrective effect. If the balance of trade and payments was weak, the exchange value of the pound fell.

This made our exports cheaper and therefore more attractive to foreign buyers. It also made imports more expensive and therefore discouraged British purchasers of imported goods. The combined effect of these developments was to restore the balance of trade without crises or drama.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

BOYD-CARPENTER,
Crux Easton House, Crux Easton,
Nr Newbury, Berkshire.
September 14.

From Mr Mark Dunn

Sir Neo-Nazi German youths hurl bricks at state-supported foreign economic refugees in East Prussia, where unemployment rates are near 70 per cent. The capital equipment to provide jobs for the Germans, or the refugees, does not exist.

The demand for consumer goods, being paid for with deutschmarks not earned but recently exchanged for worthless paper and therefore potentially themselves worthless, is unsatisfied. In the former East Germany too much money chases too few goods.

Because of these fundamental and familiar factors — they are Weimar-esque indeed — the Bundesbank considers the money supply to be so seriously in danger of breaking free and inflating that it refuses, correctly of course, anything but a token reduction in interest rates.

All the while non-German politicians and bankers are praying for a let-up in the forces which are sucking

dry the mature Western European and United States economies, as their available investment funds are converted into deutschmarks, to fill the vacuum in the east.

Yet we British still strive for economic unity and a single market in Europe. Surely we would be better off feeding ourselves, putting up some protective walls around our industry and generally behaving more like an unaligned trading nation, like Switzerland, with a still-rich portfolio of foreign investments.

Yours faithfully,
MARK DUNN,
Wildham, Stoughton,
Chichester, West Sussex.
September 14.

From the Chairman of the European Movement

Sir, The recent agonising and turmoil over EC currencies and interest rates underlines the urgent economic need for a further prompt and significant cut in German interest rates. The Bundesbank will realise that this is good for Germany's economic recovery as well as everyone else's.

The longer-term implication is that the sooner we get to the single currency in Europe the better. The prize is glittering: no more speculation in individual national currencies, which are an anachronism in such a cohesive economic area as Europe is becoming.

Interest rates could be the same everywhere. Different national rates of inflation would all become the same EC-wide rate. Consumers would have the immense advantage of being able to compare shop prices throughout the member states.

Assuming a positive "yes" result in France, and a fruitful re-think by the Danes, the inevitable should be accelerated for the future prosperity of the Community.

I remain, etc.,
HUGH DYKES,
Chairman, European Movement,
Europe House,
158 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1.
September 15.

From Mr R. A. Lamb

Sir, Although I welcome this morning's moves by the Bundesbank, I regard interest rates throughout Europe as too high, thereby prevent-

ing any improvement in growth or investment and, in Britain's case, substantially contributing to the weakness in sterling. A reduction in base rates generally would give all European currencies the fillip they require, at the same time keeping existing parities.

Zero inflation may well be a commendable target, but it will be purposeless if in the meantime a substantial proportion of British industry is decimated, with the inevitable burden of higher taxation.

I am a small player in the construction industry, which has been seriously damaged over the past three years through high interest rates.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. LAMB
(Managing Director),
W. T. Lamb Holdings Ltd.,
Nymwood Court, Brocton Road,
Billingshurst, West Sussex.
September 14.

From Mr Anthony Griffin

Sir, On March 17, shortly before the general election, some 40 chief executives of British companies wrote in these columns of the "rising living standards" of the past 12 years, the "substantial inward investment" which had taken place and the reappearance of the "spirit of enterprise". They suggested that the party to vote for should be the one which had provided these benefits since 1979. That party could be trusted "to put enterprise first".

Are readers not now entitled to a further letter from those leaders of industry explaining the benefits business has derived since that party was voted back and when the chief executives now see the end to the recession?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ANTHONY GRIFFIN,
10 West Street,
Geddington, Northamptonshire.

From Mr Charles Morgan

Sir, Do you think the Germans regard economics as the continuation of war by other means?

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES MORGAN,
46 Cathcart Road, SW10.

Business letters, page 23

Danish vote dilemma

From Mr Christopher Story

Sir, Article 20 of the Danish Constitution of 1953 lays down that for any legislation which implies the dilution of Denmark's sovereignty, via its subordination to a supranational authority, either of the following conditions are required:

1. A vote in favour of the legislation of five-sixths of the membership of the Folketing.
2. A referendum result in favour of the proposal.

The Danish government has been able to secure neither of these results. That is why Mr Ellemann-Jensen, the foreign minister, has stated that the Maastricht treaty will not become a reality in its present form.

It is out of the question for the

Danish government to hold a further referendum on the document as it stands (i.e. the one which was the subject of their June 2 referendum). It can only be held on a materially different document, which would mean the renegotiation of Maastricht.

The Danish government will shortly publish a white paper containing various options, to be debated in the Folketing. Although that body cannot override the referendum result, it could, by a five-sixths majority, recommend substantial changes to the treaty, for consideration by the EC presidency. Such a majority is unlikely, which is why the government is hinting at another referendum next year on any changes that the Folketing may recommend. Whatever the outcome, the treaty will have to be substantially altered. In the unlikely event that the Danes approve a

changed version by referendum, those countries which may by then have ratified the original treaty will have to ratify a document unacceptable to the Danes. If the changes were to be contained in a protocol, and an attempt made to argue that as such it was not part of the treaty, then other protocols would also be invalidated and the treaty would fall apart.

Unless and until all member countries ratify Maastricht as and however amended to satisfy the Danish people, the treaty will remain illegal. Do politicians and officials want to forfeit what little credibility they retain by carrying on with this farrago?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER STORY
(Editor and Publisher),
International Currency Review,
108 Horseferry Road, SW1.

Liberals and Labour

From Mr Adrian Slade

Sir, By now my party must be immune to the stereotypical conference report of woolly-headed or hooded representatives with acne, personality disorders and, usually, sandals, so Matthew Parris's comments (conference sketch, September 14) will not be taken too seriously by Liberal Democrats at Harrogate.

Peter Riddell's thoughts ("The centre holds only too well", September 14) are another matter and enough to stir even those of us who are not at this year's conference. What is this current assumption by some serious political commentators that the only hope for the Liberal Democrats is for them to work in coalition with Labour? This after a third abysmally dismal performance by Labour in a general election, which signals to many of us that, whatever the window dressing, Labour is never again going to be an acceptable alternative to the Tories.

Why should the Liberal Democrats now hitch themselves to Labour at its nadir when our party continues to erode or replace Labour as the effective alternative to Toryism in so many councils and parliamentary seats across the country?

Liberal Democrats should continue to keep doors open to those of like progressive mind from whatever party, particularly Labour, and continue to develop a more contemporary and relevant alternative than Labour is capable of providing, but pragmatic arrangements are for journalists not electors. Liberal Democrat voters like such arrangements no more than most Liberal Democrats, and they will not work in practice.

Peter Riddell is wrong.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN SLADE
(President, Liberal party, 1987-8),
28 St Leonards Road, SW14.
September 14.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Jobs and age limit

From Mr Bryan Cassidy, MEP for Dorset East and Hampshire West (European People's Party) (Conservative)

Sir, Ray Clancy (article, September 9) highlights the problem of jobless people over 40. Unusually, this is one respect in which the public sector is more enlightened than the private. Recruitment advertisements in newspapers for public sector jobs rarely mention age. Those for private companies, regrettably, almost always do.

The exception to this good public sector practice is the institutions of the European Community, the European Commission and the European Parliament in particular. They always include an age limit.

The excuse given by the Commission is that this is necessary to

secure an adequate career development for the people it recruits. But, in the jobs for temporary officials for the Commission which your newspaper has been carrying, there is even age discrimination there! This makes nonsense of the claim about career progression.

In the United States it is illegal to discriminate in employment on the grounds of age as it is race or sex. It would not be difficult for the government to introduce a minor modification to our legislation here at least to forbid explicit references to age in recruitment advertising.

Couldn't the newspapers also help by refusing to accept job advertisements which contain age limits?

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN CASSIDY,
The Stables, White Cliff Gardens,
Blandford, Dorset.

Royal marriages

From the Chairman of the National Family Trust

Sir, Any society requires marriage, or something very similar to it, in order to safeguard its children, to provide a structure for responsible child-bearing, to channel the emotional attachment and identity needs of adults and, for the majority, to enhance personal meaning and motivation and much else.

Your leader, "Royal liberation" (September 12), could not be more misplaced symbolically, psychologically and historically. Royal marriages need some liberation from the media, certainly. But personal liberation is for everyone, elusive if we fail to grapple with the stresses and strains of our innate interdependence, whether expressed in tender intimacy or the daily round of family and community life.

The various historic acts of Parliament which govern royal marriages should not be tampered with lightly. All marriages are in fact "of the highest importance to the state". We already know of the largely disastrous social, economic, educational and emotional consequences of

our national failure to buttress and enrich marriage. Absolving ourselves from mature concern for our royal family by removing from them key obligations of their historic estate would be a terminal blow to our tenuous social ecology and to our national constitution.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WHITFIELD,
Chairman,
National Family Trust,
101 Queen Victoria Street, EC4.
September 14.

From Sir Robert Sanders

Sir, "But I trust, Sir, that I have never abused the enormous power I wield. I trust, Sir, that I have never pointed the noble instrument which is placed in my hands, against the sacred bosom of private life, or the tender breast of individual reputation."

Who would have thought that our present-day press would have lower standards than Mr Pott, the editor of the *Estates Gazette* in *The Pickwick Papers*?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT SANDERS,
Greystones Lodge, Broich Terrace,
Crieff, Perthshire.

'Master teachers' to raise standards

From Sir John Mason, FRSE

Sir, Although many head teachers and the National Union of Teachers seem to reject government plans for performance-related pay (reports, September 2, 14) sustained improvement in educational standards and performance is required if the majority of our young people are to achieve their full potential and provide a skilled workforce able to compete with those of Germany, Japan and South-East Asia.

The decline in the social status and authority of the teacher is one of the most worrying developments today. If we are to have a cultivated, civilised and technically competent society the foundations must be laid in the family and the school and teaching must again be raised to an honoured profession on a par in esteem with nursing and medicine.

This is unlikely to happen unless teachers do more to help themselves, for example, by accepting the need for better training and qualifications, with pay and promotion closely related to ability, performance and responsibility.

I propose a scheme to identify and reward the outstanding classroom teacher by the conferment of a special title such as "master teacher", together with an enhanced salary, that would give the recipient increased status within the school and the local community.

These awards should encourage the outstanding and dedicated teacher to remain in the classroom rather than seek promotion to an administrative post. Such teachers could be expected to participate in the development of curricula and improved methods of teaching and assessment. They should also play a key role in the supervision of trainee teachers, who will now spend at least 60 per cent of their time in the classroom.

I envisage a national scheme, financed by central government, analogous in principle to the personal merit promotion schemes of the civil service and the NHS, operated through regional assessment panels. The number of awards would have to ensure their high prestige while being sufficiently encouraging to make a real impact on teacher morale. A reasonable compromise might allow some 10 per cent of teachers over the age of 35 to be successful.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MASON,
64 Christ Church Road,
East Sheen, SW14.
September 14.

Education aims

From the Chairman of the County Education Officers' Society

Sir, Chief education officers across the country believe that unless there are substantial modifications as the education white paper turns into a parliamentary bill in the next few weeks, the prime minister's aim to ensure that no child has to settle for a second-class education will be frustrated.

There is too much muddle about who will be responsible for what, how aggrieved parents will get redress, and how those taking decisions on resources and standards will be held accountable to local council taxpayers.

We see real problems in implementing the proposals on planning and reorganising schools; funding them fairly, when the number of grant-maintained schools varies so greatly in different areas; providing support and services for those and local education authority schools; and improving schools whose failings are assumed to come to light mainly through a public inspection report.

The drive to remove surplus places will reduce the scope for parental choice. Most of our market towns typically have only one secondary school, with the nearest alternative 10 or more miles away.

Comments on the white paper are due by September 25. This leaves little time for comment by governing bodies, which are being reconstituted this term. The minister and MPs need to have a real debate with parents, governors, heads and others who know what life is like in schools so that we can give all pupils equal access to the best.

Yours faithfully,
IVOR SLOCOMBE
(Chairman, The County Education Officers' Society),
County Hall,
Byreslea Road,
Trowbridge, Wiltshire.
September 14.

Lighting a fuse

From Dr M. A. Ware

Sir, Your leader, "English spelt here" (September 10), states that bad spelling in a newspaper "is a sign of incompetence as slovenly as a ladder in the tights". This stricture should have been heeded in your review on the same day of the Booker hopeful, *The English Patient*.

Surely, in diffusing the bomb the hero was guaranteeing maximum mayhem rather than rendering it harmless in the usual way.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET A. WARE,
Monks Gate,
Shipton-under-Wychwood,
Chipping Norton,
Oxfordshire.
September 12.

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR MARTIN HARRISON

Richard Martin Harrison, Roman archaeologist, died at his home in Oxford on September 9, 1992, aged 57. He was born at Windsor on May 16, 1935.

THE name of Martin Harrison will remain associated with three corners of Turkey: the mountainous country of Lycia, which he explored for eleven years; Istanbul, where he uncovered the great sixth-century church of St. Polyeuctos; and Amorion in Phrygia, whose excavation he initiated.

The son of George Lawrence Harrison, a precision engineer, he was educated at Sherborne School and Lincoln College, Oxford. While still an undergraduate he began his training as a field archaeologist, first in Greece, then in Turkey, where he worked under the late Michael Gough on the fifth-century ecclesiastical complex of Alahan in Isauria.

After graduation he joined the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara, where he started his systematic survey of central Lycia and developed his life-long love of Turkey and its people. In 1960 he went to the British School at Rome as Rivoira Scholar, then served as controller of antiquities, Cyrenaica (1960-61), excavating at Ptolemais, Apollonia and elsewhere.

After a spell of teaching at Bryn Mawr, he returned to Lincoln College as Glanville research student. In 1964 he was appointed lecturer at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and remained there until 1985, rising to become professor of archaeology and head of a department which he did a great deal to build up.

His appointment at Newcastle coincided with a unique opportunity for him. A few years previously bulldozing operations at Sarachane in the heart of old Istanbul threw up several blocks of elaborately decorated marble bearing some lines of Greek inscription that were identified as belonging to the church of St. Polyeuctos, built by the Princess Anicia Juliana (524-27). A rescue excavation to be conducted jointly with the Archaeological Museum of Istanbul was underwritten by Dum-



Richard Martin Harrison, Roman archaeologist, died at his home in Oxford on September 9, 1992, aged 57. He was born at Windsor on May 16, 1935.

barton Oaks Byzantine Centre of Harvard University and Martin Harrison was put in charge. He worked assiduously for six seasons in harmonious collaboration with his Turkish co-director Nezir Firatli (who died, also in his fifties, in 1979). The site was very large and produced an overwhelming mass of finds. The superstructure of the church, alas, was found to be gone, but enough remained to establish its main features and identify it as an immediate predecessor of St. Sophia. Most remarkable was the marble carving in an exuberant and exotic style, fragments of which, removed from the church at Polyeuctos in the Middle Ages, were traced to Venice (including the "Pilastri Acritani", Barcelona and Vienna).

The publication of the details of St. Polyeuctos, the first major stratigraphic excavation to have been conducted at Istanbul, naturally required a long time and was delayed

until 1986 (*Excavations at Sarachane in Istanbul* vol. 1). Volume 2 on the pottery (by John Hayes) followed in 1992. Whilst devoting his energies to the classification of the enormous variety of artefacts produced by the excavation, Martin Harrison could not help being puzzled by the strangeness of the monument he had uncovered.

What was the meaning of this vast church measuring exactly 100 "royal" cubits square, decorated with peacocks, palm trees, lilies, vine scrolls and lattice-work? He came to the conclusion that it was built as a recreation of Solomon's Temple, a tantalising theory that he developed in *A Temple for Byzantium* (Harvey Miller, 1989).

After the field-work on St. Polyeuctos had been completed, he returned to his long-running survey of Lycia. In 1985 he moved back to Oxford as Professor of the Archaeology of the Roman Empire and Fellow

of All Souls College, but, tragically, during the first year of his tenure suffered a stroke which impaired his speech and undermined his great energy. Undeterred by this disability, he was determined to carry on his work.

Always happier in the field than at his desk, he began looking for another major site to excavate and settled on the city of Amorion, the central defensive post of Byzantine Asia Minor, famous in history and legend.

It was not an easy site to work on, hot and dusty in the summer and lacking the most basic facilities. But it offered rich rewards. A lesser man might well have hesitated to take on such a task, but Harrison plunged into it with his usual enthusiasm. In 1991 the university made it possible for him to retire from teaching and his chair, and to take the new title of Research Professor of Roman Archaeology. He was determined to



Martin Harrison and, left, the excavation of St Polyeuctos

continue with Amorion. In spite of his diminished vigour and the difficulty of obtaining funds, he put in six gruelling seasons, the last in August 1992. Within a fortnight of his return home he died. He had returned, however, enthusiastic about the season just completed and looking forward to the next.

In 1959 he married Elizabeth Harkness-Browne, who was his constant companion and helper in all his archaeological ventures. Naturally gregarious, open and generous, he was the antithesis of the pedantic professor and had a wide circle of friends, many of whom were also his collaborators and former students.

His early death deprives Oxford of a scholar who would have done even more to develop late Roman archaeology, beyond its traditional European stronghold and restrictive chronological limits. It also leaves a great deal of unfinished business which, it is hoped, others will carry forward.

He is survived by his wife, a son and three daughters.

APPRECIATIONS

Ian Godfrey

YOUR obituary of Ian Godfrey (September 10) rightly dwelt on his contribution to the world of art and poetry.

Little is known about his early days and some might argue that they are of minor interest. I would disagree with that view because it was in that period, during the late 1950s and early 1960s, that his unorthodox attitudes and beliefs were formed.

It is almost 30 years since Ian and I saw each other. However, for five years or so we were close fraternal companions. At that stage he was attending the Camberwell School of Art and was making the transition from painting to poetry.

My most vivid recollection of him was his wonderful sense of humour which he not unnaturally introduced into his work. That sense of humour, which we shared, has stayed with me to this day.

He was the least pretentious person I ever knew and his intense enthusiasm for the things which he considered important was infectious. He had a childlike simplicity allied to a determination to go his own way.

His passion for form relating to objects from the distant past was exhilarating for me. At that time he was having a "love affair" with pre-Columbian art.

Diffident, even shy, in his relationships with other people, and quite indifferent to contemporary everyday matters, he always seemed to me a man out of time.

News of his premature death, despite my having neither seen nor spoken to him for so long, made me realise what a rare creature he was. The description whimsical and, perhaps, mythological, has been used by others, and it seems entirely apposite.

Ian would have been indifferent to yet another seal of approval bestowed on him by the Establishment these past few weeks, but would have revelled in the irony of the situation. He was nothing, if not an outsider.

His imperishable memorial is enshrined in his unique and unclassifiable "poets" and, for me, in his integrity. My joy is that I was there at the nativity of what history might decide is an eternal talent and that I knew the man.

John Houlihan

Admiral Sir

Guy Grantham

THE obituary on Sir Guy Grantham (September 12) finished with his period as Governor of Malta in 1962. From 1962 to 1970 he was a member of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and its vice-chairman from 1963 to 1970. He was an assiduous member of the commission, touring to see its world-wide work.

In March 1965 I was serving as the commission's area superintendent in the Eastern Mediterranean when Sir Guy came to Greece and Turkey to see that all was well before the pilgrimage of 350 Anzac veterans on the 50th anniversary of the landings at Gallipoli.

We visited all the 32 cemeteries in Anzac, Suvla and Helles areas in spite of the difficult ground terrain which in places was not passable with a four-wheel-drive tractor, so we walked.

As well as being a great ambassador for the commission he took a great interest in



the staff and their families, especially small children, many of whom were serving in remote locations. I well remember the help he gave my seven-year-old son to light a fire of brush-wood to boil the kettle for tea on a damp March day in Greece.

John Paton

Richard Burns

I AM deeply saddened that Richard Burns (obituary, September 9) may have felt that public and financial recognition was too often withheld from him. This is almost unbearably poignant because he was indeed one of the finest novelists of his generation.

The Arts Council provided him with one of its Writers' Bursaries only two years ago. These are highly competitive but they allow writers to have a period of time during which they can simply write unbur-

dened by immediate financial pressures. Richard Burns was identified by the judges in 1991, Nina Bayden, Alison Blair-Underwood and Kamala Markandaya, as an outstanding talent whose development they wished to encourage.

It is tragic that by his own hand this promise is cut off, but the achievement which remains will be lastingly impressive.

Dr Alastair Niven
Literature Director
Arts Council

BRIGADIER GERALD THUBRON

Brigadier Gerald Ernest Thubron, DSO, OBE, second world war soldier, died in Sussex on September 6 aged 89. He was born in London on July 13, 1903.

GERALD Thubron was a soldier of distinction who fought through three important campaigns of the second world war. A man of conspicuous integrity and courage, he was admired by everyone who enjoyed his irrepressible humour.

Yet he once said that he was not a born soldier. He delighted in the quiet of landscape and history — in later life he wandered Roman roads and Iron Age forts on the Sussex Downs — and he might even have become an ornithologist. But the example of his father, who died of wounds in the first world war when Thubron was only 12, spurred him on to the army. So did his mother. She was a Boston American, a descendant of Samuel Morse — inventor of the Morse Code — and she remained eccentrically spirited far into middle age, when she still rode pillion on her son's motor bike.

For much of the first world war Thubron was educated at Lancing, where he was a contemporary of Evelyn Waugh and the future archaeologist Max Mallowan (who later married Agatha Christie). It was a grim time. At the end of every term many school-leavers went to their death in the trenches, and there were air crashes in the surrounding fields.

But Thubron went on to Sandhurst, then to a commission in the North Staffordshire Regiment in 1924. There followed more than 13



years' service in India at a time of deceptive peace before he was recalled to Britain in 1938, to fill several staff and instructors' posts.

His war service began in earnest in 1942, when he was appointed Senior General Staff Officer for the 1st British Infantry Division. He fought through the harsh Tunisian campaign, which ended victoriously in May 1943. Eight months later his division spearheaded the Allied landings at Anzio, and endured four months of bitter fighting. In all he offered vital continuity to four successive divisional commanders, then headed the 2nd Battalion the North Staffordshire Regiment from the capture of Florence through the Apennines offensive to Bologna. He loved the greater self-reliance and contact with his troops which regimental command afforded, and his men reciprocated. The Battle of Marradi was to be emblazoned on the regimental colours.

The end of the war found him a brigade commander in Austria, awarded the DSO, appointed OBE and men-

tioned in dispatches. Yet he was a man of great modesty who ridiculed pretension and military honours. When asked about his war experiences, he would deflect the conversation to humorous detail (in the Apennines he once wrote orders sitting on a supposedly dead pig until it rose squealing and bolted) or told how he heard Gigli singing at Caserta. Only reluctantly would he mention that he was nearly hit by machine-gun fire in the mountains (the shot killed his mule instead) or that he was blown down a flight of steps when an ammunition ship exploded in Naples. After the war his appointments included a period as Commandant of the Senior Officers' School, and three years as Senior Army Liaison Officer in Canada. His final post was as Deputy Director of Military Training at the War Office. He retired in 1956.

Towards the end of Thubron's life a dormant skin cancer erupted — it had been bred by the tropical sun from his early years in India and in North Africa — and necessitated several operations. Enduring them all with wit and self-deprecation, he surfaced from his anaesthetic to mutter at the intravenous tube in his arm: "One drip healing another."

Never was a man less insipid. But like many soldiers he was unwarlike in temperament and delighted in sketching and wildlife. His marriage to Eve Dryden (of the family of the poet John Dryden) was for more than 60 years the central happiness of his life. Of his three children, his daughter Carol died by accident aged 21; his son is the travel writer and novelist Colin Thubron; and later he adopted a second daughter, Sarah.

SIR ROBERT MICKLETHWAIT

Sir Robert "Robin" (Gore) Micklethwait, QC, a former chief national insurance commissioner, died on September 8 aged 89. He was born on November 7, 1902.

FROM the moment he became a deputy national insurance commissioner in 1959, it was assumed that Robin Micklethwait had been selected to succeed to the top job. His aunt Dame Louisa Aldrich-Blake, the first Englishwoman to become a master of surgery, had bequeathed him a deep interest in (and understanding of) medicine. Together with his reputation as a lawyer, this made him seem a natural candidate for the post.

He accordingly inherited the mantle two years later, as national insurance and industrial injuries commissioner hearing social security appeals. He held the appointment until 1975, the title having been changed to that of chief commissioner nine years earlier.

He did much to add legal authority to the system, establishing case law to replace bureaucratic controls and lending his own reputation to the role. A man of huge integrity and sense of duty, Micklethwait was knighted in 1964.

At the same time he progressed within the Middle Temple. He was made a barrister in 1951, taking one of the few places reserved for junior counsel, was Autumn Reader (lecturing to legal students) in 1964, deputy treasurer in 1970 and finally treasurer (effectively the president of an inn of court) in the following year.

Some colleagues wonder,

however, if Micklethwait could not have climbed still higher in his profession if he had been more overtly ambitious. When elected a barrister while still a junior, he had to give a customary undertaking not to take silk for at least two years.

The main purpose of this was to inhibit "leap-frogging." As most barristers were QCs, elected according to seniority and distinction, a barrister who took silk while a young barrister, would be jumping the queue of aspiring senior

law both eminent silks, he certainly enjoyed an enviable legal pedigree. Born in Wimbledon, with a second home near Chesham, he went to Clifton College and Trinity, Oxford, where he read classics before being called to the bar in 1925. He served in the Royal Observer Corps from 1938 to 1940 but then spent the war working at Blenheim Palace as a War Office civil assistant, on duties which he never disclosed, even to his family.

He was made recorder of Worcester in 1946 and deputy chairman of Staffordshire Quarter Sessions in 1956, resigning from both appointments on joining the National Insurance Commission. Meanwhile he served on the general council of the Bar in 1939-40 and again between 1952 and 1956, and on the Supreme Court Rule Committee, 1952-56.

An honorary doctorate of law was conferred on him by Newcastle university in 1976 and he was made an honorary knight of the philanthropic Society of Knights of the Round Table in 1972. His only publication was *The National Insurance Commissioners*, published as a paperback by Hamlyn in 1976. His old job now belongs to the Chief Commissioner of the Office of Social Security Commissioners.

A diffident man with great charm, Micklethwait took to mountaineering as a young man and scaled the Matterhorn, among other Alpine peaks. In later years he took to organic gardening, introducing white lines to guide him through the cabages when impeded by falling sight.

He leaves a widow, daughter and three sons.



advocates. Micklethwait scrupulously observed the undertaking (not all did) and did not take silk until 1956. But the moment at which a barrister takes silk is always a matter of delicate timing, if he is not to lose out in the scramble for briefs.

Some say Micklethwait missed the best window of opportunity. Had he leapt through it at the right moment he might well have become the head of the Oxford circuit — usually a stepping stone for an aspiring High Court judge.

With a father and father-in-

Horticulture

Autumn gold medals galore at Westminster show

By ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

AUTUMN has arrived slightly early this year, which has enabled better displays of autumn foliage than in previous years. The Royal Horticultural Society's great autumn show has been possible in recent years.

The well-supported show, which opened in Westminster yesterday, is also strong on roses and dahlias. A large exhibit of dahlias from Aylett Nurseries, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, forms an impressive centrepiece in the New Hall. Virtually every class of dahlia is represented. The exhibit has been awarded a gold medal.

Autumn leaf colour is provided mainly by cultivars of *Acer palmatum* or Japanese

maples. Principally Plants, of Pulborough, West Sussex, have come up with the novel idea of duplicating their collection of cultivars. Half showing summer foliage and the other half autumn leaf colour. So one can see, for example, how *Acer palmatum* 'Suminagashi' looks in summer when clad with green foliage and in autumn when it turns deep scarlet. The plants in summer foliage were imported in the dormant state from New Zealand in late March and came into leaf in mid-July.

Trees, shrubs and other ornamental plants are featured in a large gold-medal exhibit from Burncoose and South Down Nurseries, of

Redruth, Cornwall. They range from a fiery group of *Crocus* 'Orangeade', *C. Red Star*, *Nandina domestica* 'Firepower', *Mahonia bealei* and kniphofias, to a "cool" group of blue hydrangeas and variegated-leaved plants.

The Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum, of Ampfield, Hampshire, have staged a collection of fruits from ornamental plants, such as the red strawberry-like fruits of *Cornus kousa chinensis*, the blue "beans" of *Decaisnea fargesii*, and the large pink fruits of *Magnolia tripetala*. Notcutts Nurseries, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, are also showing hardy plants for

autumn colour and interest, including a columnar mountain ash, *Sorbus 'Globe'*, with red berries, an ideal tree where space is limited. The exhibit has been awarded a gold medal.

A collection of conifers with attractive foliage has been staged by Sheffield Park Garden, of Uckfield, East Sussex. This gold-medal exhibit includes blue, gold and pendulous kinds; and *Pinus montezumae* with large bunches of long glaucous needles forms a dramatic focal point. Other gold-medal winners are S. and N. Brackley, of Wingrave, Buckinghamshire (sweet peas); Heather and Brian Hiley, of Wallington,

Surrey (tender perennials); C. and K. Jones, of Tarvin, Chester (roses); Marston Exotics, of Madley, Hereford and Worcester (carnivorous plants); Three Counties Nurseries, of Bridport, Dorset (garden pinks); Philip Tivy and Sons, of Syston, Leicestershire (dahlias); and Tropical Rain Forest, of Leeds, West Yorkshire (bromeliads).

There are autumn-flowering bulbs of all kinds, including colchicums and miniature hardy cyclamen. Broadleigh Gardens, of Bishops Cleeve, Somerset, are featuring colchicums, including the new 'Pink Gobel' with large globe-shaped pink-mauve flowers. Autumn-flowering gentians

are creating brilliant splashes of blue throughout the show. The collection from Holden Clough Nursery, of Bolton-by-Bowland, Lancashire, includes a new hybrid with extra large flowers named 'Exelsior', which produces its vivid blue flowers from August to late October.

The smallest of the autumn gentians, *Gentiana ornata*, which is best grown in a trough, is included in the exhibit from Edrom Nurseries, of Coldingham, Berwickshire.

The show, in the Old and New Horticultural Halls, Vincent Square and Greycoat Street, Westminster, is open today from 10am to 5pm.

SEPT 16 ON THIS DAY 1936

Jack Buchanan in top hat, white tie and tails danced, flirted and joked his way through some well-loved musical shows in between the two world wars. Elsie Randolph, who died in 1982, dancer, singer and lively actress, was perhaps his ideal partner.

PALACE THEATRE

"THIS'LL MAKE YOU WHISTLE"

Book by Guy Bolton and Fred Thompson; Music and Lyrics by Sigler, Goodhart and Hoffman.

Bill Hopping.....Jack Buchanan
Archie Coddington.....David Hutchison

Reggie Benson William Kendall
Joan Longhurst.....Jean Gillie
Laura Buxton.....Sylvia Leslie

Mrs Longhurst.....Maidie Hope
Bobbie Rivers.....Elsie Randolph
Mrs Crisp.....Irene Vere

Uncle Sebastian.....Charles Stone

Mr Jack Buchanan chooses to call his new entertainment neither a musical comedy nor a revue, but simply a show. It is indeed as loosely constructed as must be the joints of Mr David Hutchison, who performs such serpentine evolutions with intoxicated legs. But, by pushing the conventional plotlessness of musical comedy a stage nearer than has been previously done to the point of having no plot at all, he gains a sort of evenness of texture which gives a different kind of unity to the whole. The clowning is all of a piece: there is none of the uneasy shifting back and forth between sugary sentiment and red-nosed farce which sometimes makes these performances a success-

sion of jolts for the audience: everything is on the same plane of cheerful idiosyncrasy.

The nearest approach to a plot consists of a series of episodes, in which Mr Buchanan, who is already on with the new love and reasonably desirous to be off with the old, endeavours to destroy his own reputation in the eyes, first of the uncle from whom the lady to be discarded has expectations, and then of the lady herself. The respectable Uncle Sebastian turns out to be the victim of lifelong repressions, which the example of Mr Buchanan at last breaks through, with catastrophic results upon his behaviour; and the conspirator, having failed as a rake, has to try his luck as a criminal. This is all; and it is not very new, but Mr Buchanan has an engaging faculty of making old jokes sound new, and making new ninth out of lines that no one else would have noticed were funny at all.

The chief success of the evening is that of Miss Elsie Randolph, blandly and impudently occupying the centre of the conspiracy, and dancing with an ease and variety that make the dance seem the only natural means of locomotion. She should, however, be relieved of a peculiarly ugly and stupid turn entitled "You've got the wrong Rumba." Miss Jean Gillie, as the new love of Mr Buchanan, has a simple grace, and would no doubt establish a ready intimacy with the audience in a smaller theatre; but her pleasant voice has not the power for so large a stage. The bold primary colours, and final black and white, used for dressing the chorus, make many pretty pictures.

Major calls off Spanish trip as pound plunges

Continued from page 1

bilateral meetings between Michael Portillo, the Treasury chief secretary, and spending ministers is now over, and tomorrow's meeting, chaired by Mr Lamont, will be the first at which priorities for next year are determined.

One minister closely involved said that the problems involved in this year's round "dwarfs anything we have seen before" and the prime minister's decision to weigh in himself showed how hard it may be to keep to the agreed spending level of £244 billion. Michael Howard, the environment secretary, is understood to be seeking about £2 billion extra to ease the impact of the council tax.

Labour said that the government had at last recognised the seriousness of the economic situation. Tony Blair, the shadow home secretary, said: "Having refused a request to recall Parliament in order to debate the grave state of the British economy, the prime minister, by his decision to cancel his visit to Spain, has admitted how serious the situation has become. But there is little point in taking this decision and remaining in Britain unless he ceases his policy of inactivity and begins to act on jobs.

industry and the housing market.

In Strasbourg yesterday Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, said he supported the government's commitment not to devalue the pound. He also insisted that the Bundesbank was not bowing to political pressure from Bonn in a speech which appeared to confirm that the German government is anxious to keep the Maastricht treaty on track.

He welcomed the devaluation of the lira and added that realignment of the monetary system should not be necessary in the coming weeks: "I am certainly not envisaging such a measure at this point. For the moment member governments have undertaken to maintain their exchange rates."

Asked about the pound, now the weakest currency in the system, Herr Waigel said: "I don't think the government of the UK would accept a realignment. I think that is right. I respect that decision." He said Britain had a "completely different" budgetary policy to Italy.

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'No' vote could end defence of sterling

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past currency crises. Italy has lost almost all its international reserves and now owes up to DM24 billion to the German government to repay the Bundesbank's intervention. Eventually the lira was still devalued despite interest rates of almost 20 per cent.

"Most people have been surprised by the scale of the speculative flows," said one senior official, adding that the effects of financial deregulation and the abolition of exchange controls around the world, had transformed the odds faced by central banks in trying to defend their exchange rates. "The willingness to respond in all dimensions, including interest rates and intervention, has got to be in proportion to the size of the flows and these are much bigger than ever before."

Asked what level of interest rates might be required to stop a speculative attack on sterling, this official pointed to Sweden. Sweden has raised interest rates as high as

75 per cent and said it would raise foreign borrowings of up to 25 per cent of its GDP to defend the krona. In relation to the size of Britain's economy this would be equivalent to £150 billion. "I am not suggesting that we would have to do what they did in Sweden, but it does give an indication of the scale of the flows."

Asked whether a two-percentage point increase in interest rates would suffice to defend sterling in the case of a French "no" vote he said: "It is all a matter of convincing the markets of our seriousness. It would be a major step to have an increase of two, three or four percentage points, and the government has made it clear that such an increase would take place if necessary."

There also appear to be doubts in the markets and in official circles about Britain's ability to defend the pound even if it is prepared to take extreme measures.



Future voters: Paddy Ashdown meeting children yesterday at a creche provided for Liberal Democrat delegates in Harrogate

Conference sketch

Enter Joseph ... pursued by an ass

Yesterday, Charles Kennedy MP, president of the Liberal Democrats, made his annual speech to delegates: eloquent, thoughtful, intellectually streets ahead of the others. Mr Ashdown made a well-timed visit to a creche. We were able to compare two diverging styles.

Nobody knows why Kennedy omitted the quotation from *Waiting for Godot* which appeared in his pre-released text: "The tears of the world are a constant quantity. For each one who begins to weep, somewhere else another stops. The same is true of the laugh." Perhaps it came too close to an allied thought: that the nincompoopery of this world is also a constant quantity. For each clown who ceases cavorting for the media circus, there is another to pick up the mop and silly nose. Neil Kinnock has quit the photo-op championships. Yesterday, Paddy Ashdown visited a hostel for homeless young families.

I arrived before him, to encounter an extraordinary scene. In the room he was to enter, facing a terrifying bank of lights, cameras and microphones, sat four frightened-looking young women and a timid youth

with no socks. The group was arranged in a semi-circle around the stage-props of a nursery: mini-trampoline, red plastic rocking-machine, tray of wooden building blocks and wendy-house.

The first woman, who was blonde, held in her arms a female toddler, also blonde. The second woman (auburn) held a tiny baby (auburn fluff). A brown-haired woman in hot-pants rocked a medium-sized baby (bald). The young man sat on the floor, staring at the carpet. The lights went up. The whole scene resembled an audition for a nativity play, awaiting Joseph.

Behind the cameras (there were eight), journalists and interviewers were already assembled: in total 15. This was a small room but it was not clear whether we were supposed to make any kind of direct contact with the cast. Nobody did. We were reluctant to disturb on-stage arrangements. The human tableau sat silent, frozen.

But where was Joseph? Outside, a bronze Mercedes pulled up. "He's just coming to the door," whispered a party official. Camera-men readied tripods. In strode Jo-

seph, purposefully. Had the cameras missed this moment, he would have gone out again and strode in, purposefully, a second time. "Hi, hi!" he said to the women, and — it being clear that the microphones were before him — switched on — began a stilted conversation.

"Sorry about that crew," he said, pointing reproachfully at us whom his press handouts had urged to attend. "It's crowded, isn't it?" he quipped, lunging at the babies, cameras in his wake. Someone whispered: "There's gonna be a baby squashed before the day's out."

"So you're here?" he remarked, illuminatingly, to one mother. Mrs Ashdown sat next to the wendy-house looking disgusted, while he fingered the back of his neck.

"When do you think you'll be able to move?" he asked another mother.

"We don't want to. It's nice here," she said. Cops. The toddler retreated into the wendy-house, barricading itself in while Paddy urged Jane to pour some mock-tea from the toddler's toy teapot. She knelt down at the wendy-house door ("oh my knees!") and solicited a cup from the toddler. "Then I can tip it over that funny man," said Mrs Ashdown,

with a sudden smile. The toddler obliged. Joseph continued to cross-question the Mums as to their personal circumstances. Cameras whirled. Then, as camera-noise subsided: "Okay. Right. Well, thanks very much indeed."

"TV crew back up," an official shouted. "Still-cameras in." This didn't need soundtrack. "Can you look at each other, Paddy and Jane," shouted a photographer. Click. flash. Then Mr Ashdown moved to the other end of the room (different backdrop) and conducted two quick interviews about Bosnia.

Then he left for the conference creche. Having scared the mums, it was time to frighten the kids.

The conference itself debated prostitution. A Welsh delegate made a brave if unlikely speech, calling prostitution a disease to be eliminated, not legalised.

She got an icy reception from an audience few if any of whom would use a prostitute. At a Tory conference she would have been cheered to the rafters by a great many men who do.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Britain details Bosnia forces

Continued from page 1

new batch of UN troops have yet to be discussed. A planning team leaves for Zagreb tomorrow to make arrangements for the arrival of British troops. The other main contributors will be France, Canada and Spain. The routes for the convoys and the location of the battalion groups include areas that have been affected by fierce fighting, such as between Sarajevo and Gorazde, Banja Luka and Bihac.

To underline the potential dangers for the British troops, Muslim, Croat and Serb forces engaged in artillery and infantry battles across Bosnia, adding to the official toll of 80 dead and 550 wounded in the 24 hours up to yesterday morning.

The Bosnian Serb news agency reported Muslim attacks around Bihac and in eastern Bosnia and said Croats had fired on Bosanski Brod across the river which divides Croatia from northern Bosnia. Sarajevo radio said Yugoslav aircraft had hit Bihac and that Serb forces had attacked Jajce, Bihac, Tuzla and Zepa as well as suburbs of Sarajevo.

The Muslim-held Bosnian town of Sokolac in the northwest of the former Yugoslav republic was "practically destroyed" in a Serb air raid on Monday. It was reported yesterday. It was described as the most serious air attack of the Bosnian war so far.

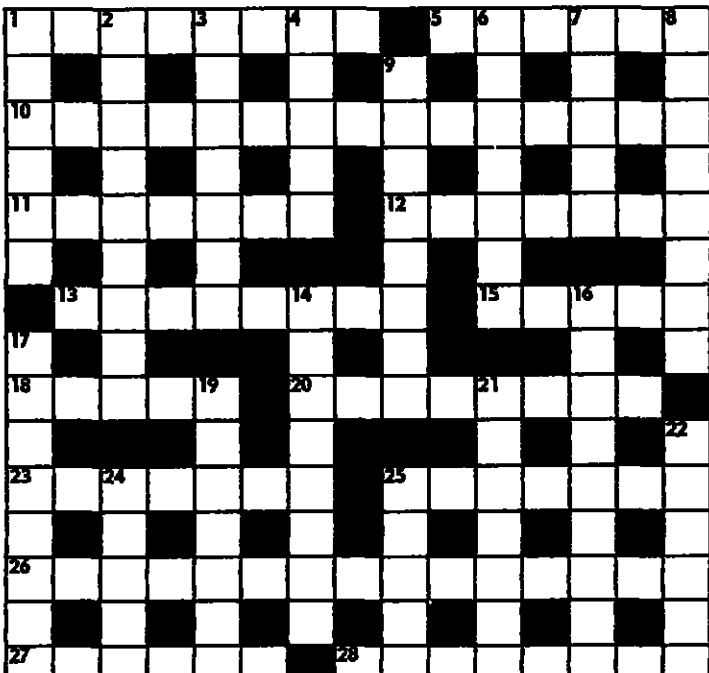
In spite of the upsurge in fighting, Bosnia's leaders bowed to international pressure yesterday and reluctantly agreed to attend peace talks in Geneva on Friday. President Izetbegovic changed his mind, after initially announcing that he would boycott the meeting. Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader and Mate Boban, the Croat leader, are also expected.

Following the arrival in Britain of the wounded from Bosnia yesterday, the Foreign Office said that although each case would be reviewed after six months, there was an open-ended commitment "in view of the present situation".

Claud Vaillat, a spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva which arranged the flight and requested the British government's assistance, said the mission was a landmark which might herald the freeing of thousands of other detainees.

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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,025



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 - Frenzied Malawi going round in circles — fuel is hard to find (8,7).
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 - Repetent old woman holding mass of dough has to move clumsily (7).
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 - Mysterious Dickensian grabbing one-foot-wide bit of timber (9).
 - It's a bore to lubricate property (3,4).
 - The rise and fall of belief (5).
 - Sergeant detailed to turn out gets mad (7).
 - Mediterranean city turned upside down to accommodate single lady (5).
 - Prince has a thing about the Spanish (8).
 - Unfaithfulness of a grown-up on the end of private line (8).
 - Admirer of beauty scoffed about these resorts (8).
 - Make up one's mind to send (9).
 - An unlikely bet, putting money on ghost being cast out (4,4).
 - Right country church for a love story (7).
 - Old-fashioned company — one in Coventry (7).
 - He makes deliveries in Anglo-French waters (6).
 - Not rich, keeping a married mistress (5).
 - Start to cram old ship with freight (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,024

JACOB HOPSCOTCH
U A E O O H O
D I G I T A L S H A R E M
G E N U I N E T E I E
E N D U R E S C H I L L E R
S A M H A R L
H E A V Y M E T A L L I N K
I S S A I B N I
P I G T F L A S H L I G H T
B E N T E A T
F A N T A S Y S C A M P I
R S N O U K A W
A R I E S K I N G C O B R A
N O E E D A E K
C A N A L E T T O P U L S E

This tie-breaker puzzle was solved in 12 minutes at the 1992 Bristol regional final of The Times InterCity Crossword Championship.

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

NOSOPHOBIA
Fear of becoming ill
Dislike of long noses
An allergy to looking behind

VACCIMULGENE
Indulgence to fools
Milking a cow
Natural vaccination

FOVEATE
Pitted, pock-marked
Favoured by fate
Shaped like a trefail

POCULATION
Looking after pigs
Wine-bibbing
Counting on one's fingers

Answers on page 16

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and road-works information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE	731
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M-ways/roads M1-Dartford	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National	737
National motorways	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
Midlands	741
East Anglia	742
North-west England	743
North-east England	744
Scotland	745
North Ireland	746

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.68	2.48
Austria Sch	20.70	18.20
Belgium Fr	67.25	58.15
Canada \$	2.42	2.26
Denmark Kr	11.35	10.58
Finland Mk	9.42	8.42
France Fr	9.94	9.24
Germany Dr	2.93	2.73
Greece Dr	363	338
Hong Kong \$	15.26	14.29
Italy Lit	11.35	10.22
Japan Yen	252.75	233.75
Netherlands Gld	3.50	3.07
Norway Kr	11.52	10.58
Portugal Esc	256.50	238.50
South Africa Rd	6.10	5.6
Spain Ps	169	176
Sweden Kr	10.87	10.04
Switzerland Fr	2.95	2.75
Turkey Lira	1450	1350
USA \$	1.98	1.88
Yugoslavia Dnr	DNB	DNB

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

WEATHER

Many places will have a dry day with sunny periods. Southwest England will be rather more cloudy, with patchy drizzle at first, but it should brighten up, with some sunshine. Northern Ireland and southwest Scotland will have increasing cloud and patchy rain later. Many parts will feel warm, with light winds. Outlook: showery rain spreading east followed by brighter skies.

WEDNESDAY 16th September: 1st-thunder; 2nd-drizzle; 3rd-log; 4th-sun; 5th-sleet; 6th-snow; 7th-fair; 8th-cloud; 9th-rain

	Min	Max	Wind	Cloud
London	8.0	16.0	16	61
Edinburgh	5.0	12.0	12	54
Belfast	5.0	12.0	12	54
Birmingham	7.0	15.0	15	59
Bristol	6.0	14.0	14	59
Cardiff	6.0	14.0	14	59
Exeter	6.0	14.0	14	59
Gloucester	6.0	14.0	14	59
Leeds	6.0	14.0	14	59
Manchester	6.0	14.0	14	59
Newcastle	6.0	14.0	14	59
Nottingham	6.0	14.0	14	59
Sheffield	6.0	14.0	14	59
Sunderland	6.0	14.0	14	59
Swansea	6.0	14.0	14	59
Torquay	6.0	14.0	14	59
Weymouth	6.0	14.0	14	59
Wolverhampton	6.0	14.0	14	59
Worcester	6.0	14.0	14	59
Wrexham	6.0	14.0	14	59
Wynnef	6.0	14.0	14	59
Wynnef	6.0	14.0	14	59

Monday's figures are latest available

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0881 500 followed by the appropriate code.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

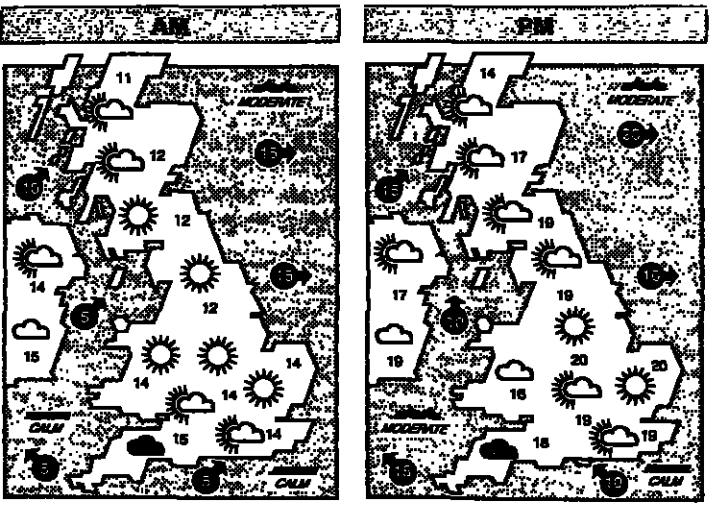
Monday: Highest day temp: Poole, Dorset, 21°C (70°F). Lowest day temp: Poole, Dorset, 10°C (50°F). Highest rainfall: Exeter, Devon, 10.5mm. Highest sunshine: Dumbarton, 9.4hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 20C (68F); min 6pm to 6am, 9C (48F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.2mm. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 7.0hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 15C (59F); min 6pm to 6am, 10C (50F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.2mm. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 0.3hr.



	London	Bristol	Edinburgh	Manchester	Penzance
Sun rises	5.37 am	5.37 am	5.37 am	5.37 am	5.37 am
Sun sets	7.12 pm	7.12 pm	7.12 pm	7.12 pm	7.12 pm

LAST QUARTER SEPTEMBER 19

TOWER BRIDGE

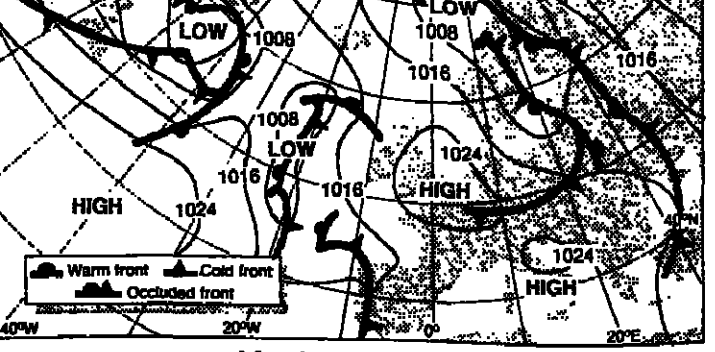
Tower Bridge will be lifted at the following times today: 4.30pm, 5.30pm, 6pm, 8.15pm, 10pm and 11pm.

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
TODAY	4.58	7.0	4.35	7.0
London Bridge	4.58	7.0	4.35	7.0
Aberdeen	10.14	12.5	10.32	12.3
Avonmouth	1.43	3.4	2.7	3.4
Belfast	5.59	11.6	10.17	11.4
Cardiff	8.45	5.1	8.54	5.0
Devonport	8.45	5.1	8.54	5.0
Dover	8.15	4.9	8.24	4.8
Falmouth	8.15	4.9	8.24	4.8
Glasgow	2.51	4.6	4.7	4.7
Holyhead	1.7	3.9	3.1	4.0
Hull	8.20	7.2	8.40	7.0
Ilfracombe	8.57	8.7	9.15	8.6
King's Lynn	8.25	8.4	8.6	8.6
Lah	8.25	8.4	8.6	8.6

Tide in metres: 1m=2.200ft.

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

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Fibres plant will create jobs for 500

BY ROBERT RODWELL

AN ARTIFICIAL fibres plant at Antrim, Northern Ireland, which closed ten years ago, is to be re-opened by an Indonesian-American partnership. About 500 jobs are likely to be created.

Draft agreements were signed in Jakarta last week after more than two years of negotiations. The signatories were John McGuckian, chairman of the Northern Ireland Industrial Development Board; Frank McCann, the board's acting chief executive; managers of the Indonesian group Texmaco, one of the world's largest manufacturers of man-made fibres; and Eastman Chemical, a Kodak subsidiary.

Ironically, it was cheap competition from Far Eastern manufacturers which, in the early 1980s, destroyed what was then western Europe's largest concentration of artificial fibre plants. Five out of six were closed, including the one now to reopen, a nylon plant run by British Enkalon, which was owned by Akzo, the Dutch chemical company.

All were established during a wave of inward investment in the 1960s and, at their peak, employed almost 20,000 people. Today, only a Hoechst plant at Limavady, County Londonderry, survives on a much-reduced scale, making Acrilan. Du Pont's nylon plant at Maydown, near Londonderry, was replaced by a new facility making Kevlar, a high-strength structural fibre. The huge, abandoned

British Enkalon plant is now to be refurbished and equipped with high-tech machinery at a cost, it is understood, of about £15 million.

Although the project will be grant-aided by the development board, government assistance will not be offered to all parts of it, because of EC regulations on competition in the textile industry.

The main activity at the refurbished plant will be production of Microfiber, a polyester filament developed in Japan that is finer even than the thread of silkworms. It can be woven into fabrics, which, although water resistant, allow perspiration to escape, like natural fibres such as silk, linen and wool.

It is this quality that distinguishes Microfiber from almost all synthetic fibres to date, which has excited the fashion industry.

Officially, the development board is making no comment. But when Mr. McGuckian and Mr. McCann left for the Far East at the beginning of the month, on what was described as a "fact-finding tour", a company spokesman said: "We are looking at some projects in the region where it would be very helpful to have the top men involved."

News of the Antrim deal follows predictions by development board sources early this month that before the end of the year 12 new projects, involving investment of £40 million and 800 jobs, could be created.



Sending help: Mike Cass, a director of Tibbett & Britten Group, has helped to organise a relief aid trip to eastern Romania using one of the clothing and grocery distribution company's lorries (Philip Pangalos writes). Organic growth in all divisions helped T&B to pre-tax profits ahead 6 per cent to £6.72 million in the six months to June 27. Turnover grew 20.6 per cent to £101.6 million. There is an improved interim dividend of 3.8p (3.4p) a share, from earnings of 12.8p (12.3p) a share. Analysts expect full-year pre-tax profits to reach about £14.5 million. The shares slid 27p to 577p.

Jeyes stays buoyant despite recession

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

JEYES, the household cleaning products group that makes Parozone bleach and Wet Ones wipes, has again bucked depressed consumer markets with a healthy advance in first-half profits.

Jimmy Moir, managing director, said Jeyes had benefited from the "recession-resistant" quality of its products. "The markets for products like bleach and toilet cleaner are still as good as they were last year," he said. "Some markets are actually up."

Pre-tax profits advanced to £19.8 per cent to £2.11 million in the 28 weeks to July 11, on turnover 16.6 per cent ahead to £35.9 million. The UK market accounted for about one fourth of sales but that will change after a recent German acquisition. Expansion into continental Europe is likely to result in 40 per cent of turnover coming from Britain, 20 per cent from Germany, 25 per cent from the rest of Europe and 15 per cent from the Far East and America.

There is no first-half profit contribution from Global, a German-based air fresheners and toiletries maker acquired in July for £18.1 million. That followed Jeyes's successful £21million rights issue, at 385p. Global is expected to contribute more than £300,000 to second-half operating profits.

Mr Moir said healthy exports had helped the international business, but the industrial cleaners division had been affected by recession. An increased interim dividend of 3.1p (2.6p) is recommended. The shares fell 2p to 464p.

Crédit Lyonnais taking majority in Woodchester

CREDIT Lyonnais, the French bank, is taking a majority stake in Woodchester Investments, the Irish leasing company, by selling it a 30 per cent stake in **Credit Lyonnais Leasing Europe (CLLE)**, its European leasing operations, for **Fr200 million**. Woodchester is paying with 9.47 million of its shares. This will raise Lyonnais's stake in Woodchester from 45.6 per cent to more than 48 per cent.

Lyonnais has also announced it will buy more than 4 million Woodchester shares in the market to take the bank's stake to more than 50 per cent. Lyonnais has grouped its non-French leasing businesses into a specially created vehicle to allow Woodchester to take a strategic stake. Woodchester previously announced that it had suffered a 3 per cent fall in pre-tax profits in the first half of the year to £17.5 million (£16.86 million). However, the group is increasing its dividend by a fifth to £1.81p.

Cala reduces losses

A SHARP drop in provisions has helped reduce losses at Cala, the Aberdeen housebuilder and property group. In the year to end-June, the company made a pre-tax loss of only £980,000 compared with a £6.9 million loss the year before. Despite the improvement, a second successive year of losses has persuaded the board to cut the total dividend from 3.4p to 2.3p. To achieve this, the final dividend has been cut from 2.25p to 1.15p.

GPA conversion price

GPA Group, the aircraft leasing company, has set the conversion price of its \$300 million preference share issue at \$8 a share, according to aviation sources in Dublin. A listing for the refinancing package will be sought in Luxembourg by the end of this year. Next would come a listing of the ordinary and convertible shares in Dublin. Tony Ryan, who founded the firm and controls 8 per cent of the ordinary shares, intends taking up a sizable amount of the rights.

Trinity advances

TRINITY International Holdings, the newspaper publisher and paper maker that acquired 23 Scottish titles from Lornho for £45 million in July, has unveiled a 14 per cent advance in interim pre-tax profits to £7.9 million for the six months to June 27. The improvement had been achieved in the midst of difficult economic conditions through "the continued judicious management of costs and increased market share". The interim is raised from 2.5p to 2.7p.¹

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

COMMENT

Kingfisher flying in fine style

Given the calamities that have befallen other attempts to knit together household name retail chains during the eighties, Kingfisher's arrival at its tenth birthday this autumn definitely merits celebration. Kingfisher is, of course, a vastly different bird to the lame duck that F W Woolworth had become in 1982. Anyone who had spent the last ten years on the moon might, it is true, be surprised to find that the old Woolworth's high street network remains pretty much in its old form, but these days earning a much more decent return on sales, even if little of the profit is wrapped up before Christmas.

As its first chairman, John Beckett had predicted from the outset the Woolworth ship took a long time turning, but after seeing off Stanley Kalms' £1.8 billion attempt to establish Dixons in the retail premier league in 1986, the busy acquisition schedule which brought in Comet, B&Q and Superdrug began to add growth to the group's rediscovered stability. The early acquisition phase now over, Geoff Mulcahy and his team now have the task of ensuring that recession is not allowed to undermine the achievement. On the basis that recognising the problem is half way to a solution, Mulcahy's comments yesterday should be well received. "I am often asked when I think the upturn will finally arrive," he said. "This is no longer the right question. The issue is how to increase profits through the lower growth years to come."

A sum of £300 million has been earmarked for investment in improving productivity and service over the next three years. Discounting will be increasingly abandoned, on the perception that customers will respond to more consistent lower pricing provided they are guaranteed value. It is an interesting theory but so far this management team has been more right than wrong.

Bundesbank woes

Ordinary Germans are worried that their Bundesbank has lost its independence. It may be one of the world's most powerful central banks but the Bundesbank's independence has always been strictly limited under law to the conduct of day-to-day monetary policy. In any other respect, the Bundesbank is very much dependent. Under a law of 1957 it is required to support the government's overall economic policies.

There have been several previous occasions when the Bundesbank was overruled by Bonn and forced to act against its better judgment, most notably in the run-up to German monetary union in 1990 and in the run-up to the exchange rate mechanism in 1979. On each occasion politicians have prevailed over the Bundesbank for the simple reason that even in Germany, exchange rate policy is not a matter for unelected central bankers but for elected politicians. The power over exchange rate policy, including the right to authorise a realignment in the ERM, is also the politicians' trump card against unruly central bankers. This week the German government used its card by yielding to the Bundesbank's demands for a realignment in return for a rate cut.

A future European central bank will also follow in the Bundesbank's semi-independent footsteps. It will be independent when it does not matter and dependent when important economic and political issues are at stake. President François Mitterrand exaggerated only slightly when he said that under European monetary union politicians will still determine the framework of monetary policy, while the implementation will be left to "technicians". The events this week have shown that those dreaded Bundesbankers are nothing other than a group of high calibre "technicians".

Jobless figures for the principality are now lower than the national average. Ross Tieman examines Wales's return to prosperity

Mid afternoon, mid-week. Mid Glamorgan. Two workmen are putting the final touches on a canopy that arches from the lobby of the sleek, black Sony factory towards twin artificial lakes in the grounds.

On the nearby M4 motorway, traffic is busy, but fluid. Fifteen miles east along that road, in Cardiff, the shopping streets are crowded too.

Wales has changed. Seven years ago, unemployment in the principality averaged 13.9 per cent, 2.7 per cent worse than the national average, and almost five points higher than the level of Greater London.

Yet the unthinkable has happened. In July, employment department statistics recorded jobless levels in Wales 0.1 per cent below the national average, at 9.6 per cent. In London, the rate is now 10.6 per cent, the highest on record.

Of course, the recession rippled out of the South East into the rest of Britain, so Welsh unemployment may rise faster later in the economic cycle. But surveys from both the British Chambers of Commerce and the Confederation of British Industry suggest that businessmen in Wales are notably more optimistic than their peers nationwide. And for good reason. According to the CBI, the proportion of firms in the principality working below capacity has fallen in each of the past three quarters and now stands at 63 per cent, again below the national average. Even more striking, on balance respondents expected to increase employee numbers over the next four months.

The CBI findings are supported by research from the BCC. It is clear that the Welsh economy is now considerably more healthy than the national economy, and compares favourably with other regional bright spots, such as the North East, East Midlands, and briefly Merseyside.

What each of these regions has in common is manufacturing investment. It is simplistic, but entirely reasonable, to point to the construction of car plants as a key part of why each has avoided the drubbing suffered by the national economy.

Where a manufacturer has established assembly operations, component suppliers have followed, and the pump-priming spending has flowed out into the regional economy. Thus Nissan has become a driving force in the North East, Toyota in the East Midlands, Ford and Vauxhall on Merseyside. In Wales, Honda and Ford have poured a fortune into engine plants, while continental European groups have been developing component operations.

There is more to the Welsh story, than motors, though. A decade ago, the Welsh economy was dominated



Inward urge: Phil Head, WDA chief executive, cast a global net in search of manufacturing investment

by extractive and heavy industry, much of it in decline. Coal and steel were the region's lifeblood. Today, there are only three large pits left (one is earmarked for closure), and Sony, the Japanese electronics group, has more employees than British Coal.

Where Britain in the 1980s followed the Thatcher doctrine that a highly developed service sector was the sign of a modern economy, the Welsh Development Agency (WDA), strongly supported by the Welsh Office, cast a global net in search of inward manufacturing investment.

While men from Essex donned white socks and headed for City dealing rooms, Welsh youngsters learned to make things. For most of the past decade, Wales has been, and remains, the most popular location in Britain for inward investment. Since 1985, manufacturing output in Wales has grown by 31 per cent, compared with 11 per cent for the UK as a whole. Trend growth in manufacturing has been almost twice the national average, and higher than in any other region. As a result, the share of manufacturing in Welsh gross domestic product is now almost 5 per cent higher than nationally.

High interest rates and the collapse of the southern housing market have put Essex trader on his uppers and turned his customers into hermits.

But in Wales, they are still making things, and consumers can still afford to shop on a midweek afternoon.

The development of international markets has played an important part in Wales's continuing prosperity. Exports have helped protect the Welsh workforce from the weakness of the UK economy. Whether they can continue to do so, in the face of a sagging dollar and softening demand in Britain's two biggest export markets, Germany and France, remains to be seen.

The omens are good. Critics have disparaged many of the new breed of Welsh factories as "screwdriver plants", assembly operations that could as easily be manned by monkeys, and whose owners could close them and shift production elsewhere at the drop of a franc, or indeed a recalcitrant, union-wielded spanner.

At the outset, there was indeed a measure of trepidation, particularly among Japanese investors. Yet the sums of money invested in production facilities are so substantial that manufacturers cannot simply walk away. Multinational investors may be fickle, but they are not feeble. Their enthusiasm for a location is better signalled by a slowdown in new investment flows. Closure is a

final resort of desperation: it is also exceedingly rare.

Ask any inward investor about the attractions of Wales and he, or she, will speak of good communications and a stable workforce. An Englishman may perceive South Wales as isolated, and on the fringes of the European Community. From Detroit or Tokyo, an undeterred motorway, a helping hand with foreign customs and planning procedures, and a cheap workforce are more important.

The Welsh workforce is relatively cheap, as well as reliable and efficient. According to an analysis by Oxford Economic Forecasting earlier this year, average earnings in Wales in 1989 were 99.2 per cent of the national average. But productivity, at 109.7 per cent, was bettered only in the northern region. Consequently, unit labour costs, at 90.4 per cent of the national average, were the most attractive in Britain.

The OEF report concluded that "it is high productivity investment which is dictating the trend in the region's relative unit-labour costs". In other words, if you can persuade people to invest in manufacturing, efficiency improves, and the region begins to outperform its rivals.

There are other benefits. Inward investment has introduced modern management practices, and moder-

nised employee relations, as well as manufacturing techniques. Companies have always shared a measure of information and allowed rivals to visit their plants. The effect, in Wales, has been to pass on a lot of new practices which place more emphasis on the employee. Managers who have worked in Japanese plants are also beginning to be headhunted.

Finally, the screwdriver charge is starting to wear thin. As plants grow, and production experience is accumulated, there is a tendency for managers to want increased control over the technological content of production. Investors from Japan and Europe have tended to respond favourably to such pressure. After all, engineers are far cheaper to hire here than in Cologne or Osaka.

All of which is fine, up to a point. But what will happen in the 1990s? Throughout the 1980s, inward investment has provided the backbone of growth in the Welsh economy. A partnership has been established between the WDA, the Welsh Office and local authorities that has succeeded in attracting foreign firms. But the 1990s look likely to be tougher. Most Japanese and American firms that believed they had to establish production within the European Community before the single market in 1993 have already arrived. Moreover, the one-off influx of vehicle assembly and component manufacture is petering out.

According to Phil Head, chief executive of the WDA: "Wales has done relatively well over the last ten years in attracting new investment and making its employment base more diversified." However, he says, GDP per head is still the lowest in mainland UK. The challenge now, the WDA believes, is to use the improved manufacturing base as a catalyst for indigenous development. To that end, it is putting great effort into developing supplier programmes to encourage the incomes to buy components and services locally.

But Wales also needs to broaden the intellectual content of its economy. This is a region that, traditionally, has suffered the loss of many of its most able people, drawn by superior opportunities for betterment elsewhere.

Capturing the research and development functions associated with the new manufacturers is a part of that process which, it appears, is already underway. But the overseas rivals for Wales, and for Britain as a whole, are not just the developed countries. Increasingly, Wales is competing, on cost, to do work that would otherwise be carried out in the newly industrialised economies of South East Asia, such as Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong, and the tigers on their tails — Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, and so on.

In this contest, it is the quality of the workforce, from shopfloor to directors' chair, that will be critical. Having learnt the techniques of modern manufacture, Wales must now develop the capacity to innovate, and build the service sector that its enlarged manufacturing base can now support.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Late forwarding of cash on delivery payments hurts small businesses

From Mr Graham Jobson -

Sir, When I read of the failure of small businesses in the press I must confess I am not in the least surprised. I myself run a small business and it is my opinion that businesses such as mine are hampered at every turn by big business.

In my particular case I offer a cash on delivery service to mail order customers and as Royal Mail Parcelforce seems to have the monopoly on such a service I deal exclusively with them. The problem is they seem very reluctant to forward my money to me.

As a small business perhaps my cash flow problems do seem rather insignificant to such a large concern but I cannot help but compare my problems with the parable of the "widow's mite". However, Parcelforce seems to have no such humanitarian leanings and as I am of no particular importance I now find myself in the position of being passed from one department to the next. I have now also come to the conclusion that if in their wisdom they decide to hold onto my money for eight or more weeks there is very little I can do about it, which as you can imagine is very frustrating.

Therefore, to return to my previous point, small businesses will either fold or at best remain small businesses until some of the larger corporations decide to be a little more tolerant of us.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM JOBSON,
Managing Director,
Just Juniors,
Unit 9A,
Cannon Park Way,
Cannon Park Industrial Estate,
Middlesbrough,
Cleveland.

Calling into question fundamental principles upon which Lloyd's operates

From Mr Philip Dinkel

Sir, Following the service of "solvency writs" on many names, Lloyd's of London's immunity from suit has been called into question for the first time in a legal battle that is being waged.

European law has been brought to bear, in a counterclaim to these writs that will uncover, by "disclosure", much that has been hitherto concealed by virtue of the Lloyd's 1982 act.

This action, which will effectively protect names' assets beyond their deposit at Lloyd's, calls into question some of the fundamental principles upon which the market

Computers and bank management

From Mr Roy Munden

Sir, As one who, twenty years ago, initiated the design and development of a computerised management information system in what was then a smallish international bank, I am frequently dismayed by the misconceptions which prevail about the effect of computers on the management and use of information.

An example of these misconceptions was provided by Charles Brett's assertion about bank account charges (letters September 9) that "With computerisation of accounts and reduction of local managerial discretion the system had to be codified."

In a well-managed bank information about costs incurred and income from an account or group of accounts should certainly be codified and fed automatically into a "system". Codifying this information allows basic costs and values (for example, cost transactions; the cost and value of money) to be applied uniformly across branches but should never result in the charging system being codified.

Making uniform, basic information at account level easily accessible to branch managers and account executives allows discretionary au-

thority to be delegated to the local level where such information should be married to personal knowledge of account holders, thus increasing local managerial discretion, not reducing it.

The system I initiated in the early 1970s has since been developed under strict user control to become a powerful management tool. Those involved must have been doing something right because my erstwhile employers recently completed their acquisition of a British clearing bank.

Yours faithfully,
ROY V. MUNDEN,
Globe Cottage, Church Road,
Thornford, Shropshire.

Quicker Taurus

From Miss M. Bellwood

Sir, The new chairman of the London Stock Exchange seems to be rather biased in favour of Taurus. As a private investor I hoped to see some reference to the much shorter settlement period. This may create difficulties for us due to the bank's slowness in crediting one's account when cheques are paid in.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET BELLWOOD,
52 Over Norton Road,
Chipping Norton, Oxon.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Another goes from P&D

THE outflow of analysts from UBS Phillips & Drew continues. Paul Compton, its engineering analyst and ranked fifth in Exel's league table will resign from the firm this morning amid speculation that his departure is linked to the dismissal of controversial author Terry Smith. Its former head of research, Compton, with P&D for four years, has landed a job with Credit Lyonnais Laing, where he will be reunited with John Holmes. The two men were once colleagues at Morgan Grenfell. "He used to be head of Morgan Grenfell Securities which is where I worked before and I will be working for him again at Laing," says Compton. He denies, however, that his departure is directly related to Smith's treatment by P&D. "The Terry Smith affair had no direct bearing on this decision," he said. "I have been in talks with Credit Lyonnais for six months. I am going to them because they have offered me a better salary and because I want to work for an independent research firm."

Face to mace

BZW equity sales trader Danny "make my day" Butler, who admits to being a Clint Eastwood fan, reveals that he acquired the new Eastwood-style nickname after trapping a burglar beneath a bed in his Essex home in the early hours of Sunday morning. Butler, 46, was awoken at 5am by strange noises and began a



Smith: trend setter

search of the property. When he eventually located the intruder, he ordered his family to telephone the police while he remained firmly on top of the bed, threatening the man beneath him with a mace — a souvenir from a Portuguese holiday — if he dared to move. "Fortunately he was facing the other way, so he couldn't see me," says Butler. "He turned out to be about 6ft tall and I'm only 5ft 8ins. I didn't think about it at the time but afterwards I started shaking like a leaf. He had tried to tell me that he had too much to drink and was just looking for somewhere to sleep. Yes, the air was pretty blue."

Onto a winner

WITH City analysts joking that Ladbroke should rename itself Verybroke after the recent fall in its share price, the arrival of Steve Devany as its new director of public affairs will not come a moment too soon. Devany, who celebrates

his 39th birthday on Saturday, is currently with PR firm Hill & Knowlton and hopes to join Ladbroke before the beginning of November. He is, he says, aware that he has a lot to live up to, since he will be succeeding the late John Haranoff, who died earlier this year after a lengthy battle against cancer. Haranoff's corporate hospitality, on the race courses of Britain, was legendary. "I'm not a day-to-day punter but I do have an interest in horse racing and obviously at Ladbroke's hospitality is something you can do rather well because you have all the facilities," says Devany. "I only knew John by reputation but the hospitality will definitely continue." Devany, who admits that his new job brings with it "a modest increase in package," adds that his initial efforts will be targeted on Ladbroke's "depressed share price. A lot of my early work will be aimed at the City," he says. Delighted racing enthusiasts in the Square Mile now expect a flurry of invitations and confidently predict that the share price could soon show signs of recovery.

Credito con brio

TIMING is everything. Ask Marcello Mancini, chief manager of the London branch of Credito Italiano, Italy's sixth largest bank. Months ago Signor Mancini decided to have a restrained and cultural evening at the National Gallery with a recital by the Quartetto D'Archi di Torino to celebrate 20 years of European integration since his bank set up in London. Then last week the Italian government announced Credito Italiano was going to be privatised, and this weekend... well, no more said. Beseiged by journalists ever since, Signor Mancini was yesterday pleading that "we did not mean to exploit events or have a high profile" as he prepared for the soirée with, among other guests, senior officials from the Bank of England. But he did concede that events would inevitably "add a little bit of spice" to the occasion.

On the fence

CITY hunting enthusiasts are expressing relief that Charles Nunneley, a top Robert Fleming man, has been nominated for election to the council of the National Trust in November. The anti-hunting lobby desperately wants the National Trust to adopt an anti-hunting line but pro-hunters say Nunneley, deputy chairman of Robert Fleming Holdings and chairman of the National Trust finance commit-

CAROL LEONARD

THE TIMES

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4	Calderbrook	Food	
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6	Gold Pwr	Oil/Gas	
7	Hendy	Motor	
8	Hickson	Chem/Plas	
9	Marley	Building/Rds	
10	Talman Cider	Beverages	
11	Talman Cider	Industrial	
12	Microfilm Rep	Electrical	
13	Jardine Strat	Financial Trusts	
14	Solihull Water	Water	
15	Cherford Hill	Property	
16	Whealy	Industrial	
17	New	Drugs/Pharm	
18	Ed Data	Electrical	
19	Steel Bull	Insurance	
20	Wilson (C)	Building/Rds	
21	TV-am	Leisure	
22	Hyson	Industrial	
23	Star Comp	Industrial	
24	ACT Group	Electrical	
25	Black (P)	Industrial	
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27	Warrington	Paper/Print	
28	Sim Darts	Industrial	
29	GRN	Industrial	
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31	Dynalene	Mining	
32	MTM	Chem/Plas	
33	Smith (J)	Paper/Print	
34	CRH	Building/Rds	
35	Blechnie Mtr	Motor/Car	
36	Courtsend Text	Textiles	
37	Aut Oil & Gas	Oil/Gas	
38	Amprang	Industrial	
39	Shandwick	Paper/Print	
40	Mathew Clark	Beverages	
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42	Wick	Food	
43	Alford Colloid	Chem/Plas	
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The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mr Ralph Fisher, of Wimborne, Dorset.

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Gains wiped out

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began September 7. Dealings end September 18. ©Contango September 21. Settlement day September 28. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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OPTICAL BUSINESS



Far-sighted: as in promotions of the 1950s (left), Lorraine Kelly and Cliff Richard (right), the 1992 Spectacle Wearers of the Year, aim to promote a trendy image

Catching the customer's eye

The eye-care industry is in the throes of an upheaval that began ten years ago when the Office of Fair Trading recommended to the government that the exclusive right of opticians to sell ready-made reading glasses be abolished. At the time, opticians came in for a lot of criticism that their product prices were too high. "Market forces", the government claimed, would bring down costs if consumers were able to try and buy from a wider variety of shops.

The legislation was in force by April 1989, when entitlement to a free NHS sight test was also abolished for everyone who did not meet the new eligibility requirements. Voucher schemes had been brought in three years earlier for those on low incomes, and although they did not cover the total cost of new spectacles, it meant that even the poorly-off could take their custom elsewhere.

A further blow came in August 1988, when value added tax was imposed on previously excluded optical products. In a matter of months, opticians saw a drop in sight-test fees, had to share their market with traders such as department stores and watched their prices to the consumer increase by the rate of VAT, then 15 per cent but now 17.5 per cent. Close on the heels of all this came the recession. It was a jolt to an industry that had been largely restrained in its

Opticians have lost exclusive rights and gained market rivals.
Pat Blair reports on how the industry is battling for business

marketing and that often projected an image of the worthy-but-dull professional scientist in the high street. That is now changing in today's retail market of spectacles, contact lenses and solutions that is estimated at £1 billion.

Despite the effects of recession, there are new companies in the field, such as Boots Opticians and Specsavers, which until the mid-Eighties had kept out of the retail optical market but are now the second and third largest groups, after the long-established Dollond & Aitchison. Established companies — whether multiples or independents — are rising to the

challenge of the new climate and are seeking to attract custom, rather than wait for consumers to walk through the door.

To be able to compete on prices, independent retailers have banded together through such companies as Percy Kirk, the biggest of the buying groups, which deals with about 1,200 independent shops and can negotiate volume-related deals with manufacturers.

At the same time, frame-makers and lens manufacturers are waking up to the fact that while French and German spectacle-wearers each own three or more pairs and use them on different occasions, the

British still average 1.4 pairs of spectacles a wearer, and that maybe glasses could lose their image as a "grudge" purchase in the UK and be seen instead as desirable, attractive aids.

A leading frame-maker such as Silhouette has long advertised directly to the public but, according to Derek McLaren, the managing director, when the company first did so more than 20 years ago, reaction within the industry was hostile.

The day of the designer frame has, nevertheless, dawned, riding on the success of designer sunglasses, attracting such names as Savile

Row, Dunhill, Armani and Cartier. Lens manufacturers too are taking a higher profile. Firms such as Pilkington, Carl Zeiss and Rodenstock are already names with which the cognoscenti are familiar for both lenses and frames, but companies better known in other fields, such as Nikon, are also making their mark.

A Mori survey for the Federation of Ophthalmic & Dispensing Opticians last May showed that 5 per cent of the spectacle-wearing population were already buying ready-made reading glasses.

For those who need prescription lenses — obtainable through the country's 6,714 registered optometrists and 3,569 dispensing opticians — industry observers believe that two main trends will emerge: speed and bespoke services.

LensCrafters already advertises on speed, promising to dispense many prescriptions within an hour, a trend that has come from the United States. Others are likely to follow the European model and aim for the top end of the market, with individual style and tailored products.

Although it may take the industry time to settle — and nobody pretends the economic climate is easy — it seems the customer stands to gain, but only if he or she can be persuaded that eye health is desirable, that having to pay for a sight test is worth it and that wearing glasses can even be glamorous.

Today's lenses are easier to wear

A clear view of contacts

Five hundred years after Leonardo da Vinci described a way of correcting vision by using a water-containing shell, and a hundred years after the first blown-glass contact lens was made in Germany, contact lenses have finally come of age.

Rapid advances in materials and manufacturing techniques over the past 20 years have made contact lenses easier to wear. The old, hard lenses, often time-consuming to fit and difficult to get used to, have largely been replaced by thin, comfortable soft lenses and gas-permeable hard lenses.

By allowing eyes to breathe more easily, the latest lenses have higher safety levels, are easier to adapt to and are suitable for a wider range of people, including those who use bifocals or who have the eye defect, astigmatism.

Today there are more than two million contact-lens wearers in the UK in an industry estimated last year to be worth around £240 million, split equally between lenses and solutions.

Most are still chosen for cosmetic reasons, although many sports players prefer them as they can be worn for games such as tennis, soccer, rugby, cricket and skiing (on water or snow). Specialised contact lenses may also be supplied to those who have had cataract surgery.

Generally designed for day-time use, there are lenses intended for continuous wear, but these appear to carry greater risks of infection and still arouse professional controversy. All lenses should be disinfected daily and the special solutions cost from £3 to £15 for a month's supply, depending on the type of lens.

Hard lenses, costing £100 to £200, are of non-absorbing rigid plastic which is easy to clean and disinfect. They are preferred by

many optical practitioners to soft lenses as they lead to fewer incidents of infection.

Soft lenses, at about the same price, are generally more comfortable to wear but because they are absorbent, the cleansing solutions can build up in them and cause eye irritations. One answer has been to replace them more regularly, and many are now changed on a monthly or fortnightly basis. These so-called disposable lenses, or planned replacement lenses, cost from about £10 a month.

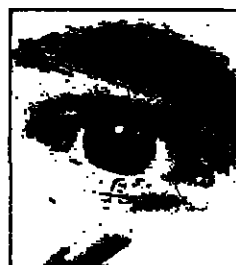
If costs could be reduced further, the daily disposable lens could be the next step forward, although Simon Fraser, of Pilkington, a leading manufacturer, believes that the technology is still some way off.

Toric lenses (£150 to £300) are designed for people who have astigmatism or who have a poor supply of tears — a problem which can limit the length of time that lenses can be worn. Bifocal lenses (£200 to £400) are considered by the industry to be one of the growth areas in contact lenses.

After 20 years of development, efforts are still being made to refine them and many wearers of bifocal spectacles have successfully made the switch. Because these lenses are more complex, they generally require more consultations to obtain a successful fit.

Contact lenses may be fitted and supplied by ophthalmologists (eye-disease specialists), ophthalmic opticians (optometrists), and by dispensing opticians who hold the necessary certificate. Fittings and follow-up appointments total about two to three hours in the first year — and most contact-lens wearers are also advised to have a pair of spectacles for alternative wear.

MIKE KILLPARTRICK



Hygiene is vital

FROM November 1 a new independent service, the Optical Consumer Complaints Service (OCCS), is being set up under the chairmanship of Dame Jocelyn Barrow to adjudicate where consumers and suppliers have failed to agree in a dispute over goods and services. *Pat Blair writes.* "We see ourselves as a conciliatory body, to get satisfaction for the customer," says Dame Jocelyn, who is also deputy chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Council.

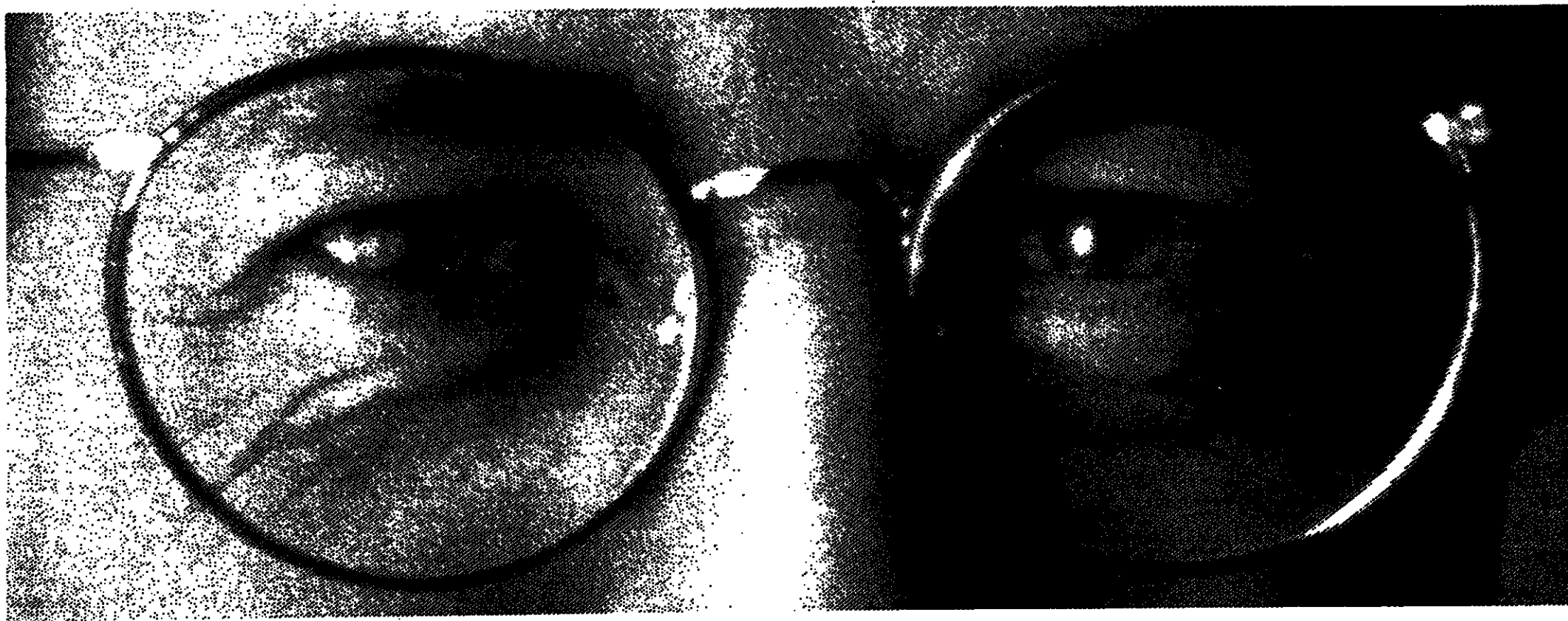
CONSUMER AID

Although it will have no statutory powers, optical practitioners who register with the OCCS and agree to abide by its guidance will be encouraged to display window stickers, in the hope that the public will recognise and use those practices.

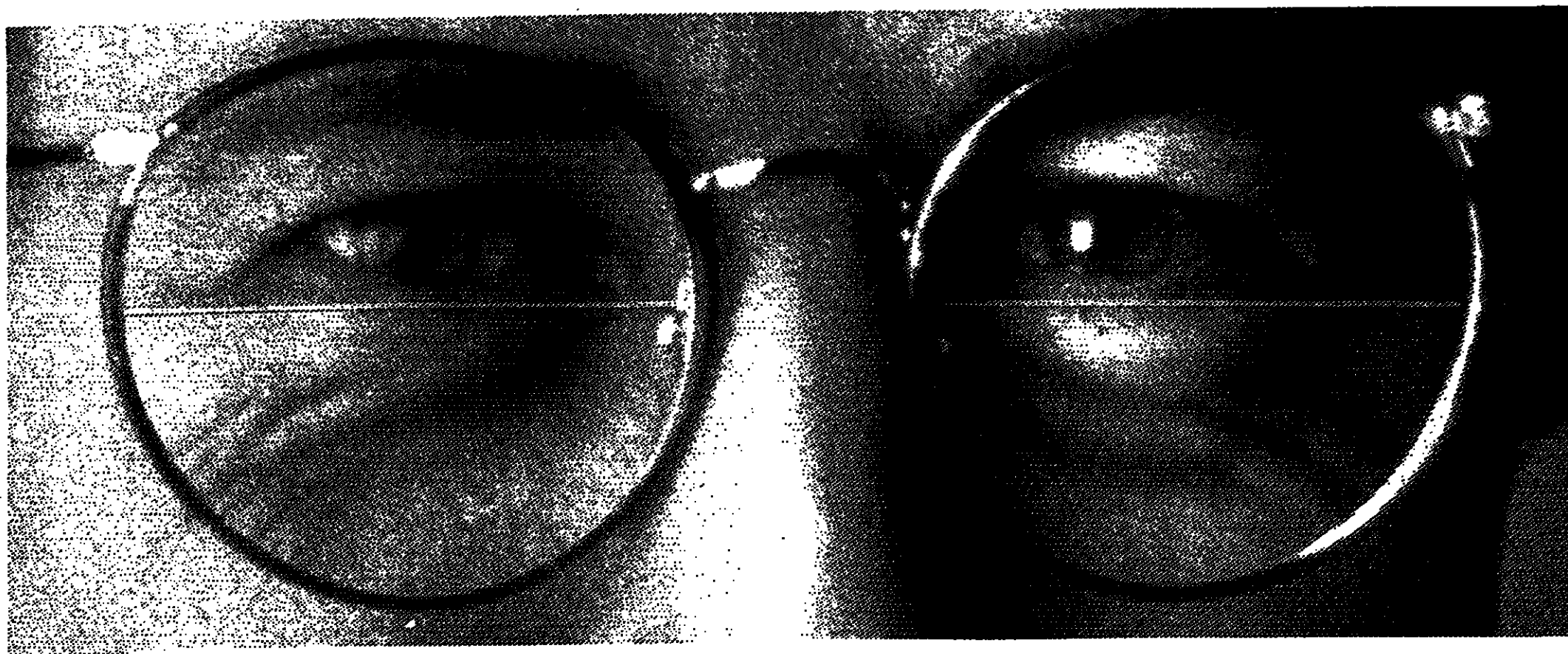
It will have five independent members and a representative from the British Association of Dispensing Opticians, Association of Optometrists, the British College of Optometrists and the Federation of Ophthalmic and Dispensing Opticians.

The OCCS will aim to complement the existing powers of the General Optical Council, which deals with matters of professional misconduct, and fill a gap left when the sight-test service was privatised.

Those entitled to a free NHS test can still take their complaint to their family health services authority.



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A rosier tint to business in the high street

After years of decline, deregulation and improvements in design have brought variety to the customer and fresh hope to the industry. Felicity Bates reports

When the National Health Service was founded in 1948 its objective of providing free eye examinations and inexpensive glasses for all was universally lauded. However, this policy was to prove little short of disastrous for the British frame and lens industries.

As the nation's largest buyer of glasses, the NHS was able to pare prices to the minimum and reduce profit margins to the unworkably low. Consequently, with little capital available for investment in research and development or re-tooling, both frame making and lens manufacturing went into decline.

The availability of free or subsidised glasses also shaped the attitudes of the British public. They became so used to choosing frames from a small, uninspiring selection that they came to regard glasses as purely utilitarian prostheses hardly worth a decent purchase price.

At the same time, Europeans had come to regard glasses as style accessories worth paying for. Continental frame makers, who saw themselves as designers as well as technicians, responded by producing frames that sold on their fashion merit. During the Fifties they mounted aggressive export campaigns to Britain. These imports were later joined by budget frames from South East Asia and more recently by more up-market Japanese creations.

The domestic producers' market share fell steadily, and now accounts for only 30 per cent of frames sold in the UK. However, local manufacturers are fighting back and at present export 55 per cent of their production.

Lack of financial incentive also caused a decline in domestic lens production. Virtually all lenses are now imported, although they are generally ground to specification in local prescription houses.

Britain differs from Europe in the way these frames and lenses are sold. Here, eyes are examined and glasses fitted in the same retail environment. These optical outlets were originally individually owned and operated, and a group such as Dollond & Aitchison has a history dating back to the 18th century.

Until 1984 registered opticians had a virtual monopoly

in dispensing glasses. However, deregulation and the relaxation of advertising restrictions have produced radical changes. Simple ready-to-wear reading glasses, for example, can now be bought at a wide range of outlets, though their prescription range is limited and there is still a preference for a full eye examination when considering vision help.

The last five years have also seen the growth of large multiples such as Specsavers and franchises like Specsavers. With their capacity to bulk-buy and finish lenses in-house, these chains have posed a major threat to traditional optical practices.

One area of optics that has enjoyed continuous growth since the war is contact lens manufacturing. Despite the fact that only 6 per cent (more than 2 million) of people needing visual correction wear

FRANCHISE GROWTH

ESTABLISHED in 1984 by Doug and Mary Perkins, Specsavers is the largest and fastest growing optical franchise group in Britain and the Irish Republic. The company has 200 outlets, which represents half of all optical franchises, but expects 400 by the end of 1993. It hopes to be the largest optical group in Britain by 2000.

Turnover is £100 million and is increasing annually by 25 per cent. Success is based

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Individual attention: an Italian specialist working by hand on lens moulds

contacts, sales in 1991 were 2.9 million single lenses compared with 803,000 in 1982.

Although some of the major producers such as Ciba Vision are multinationals, most of their contact lenses are made in Britain and over 40 per cent are exported. Sales have been helped by the many advances made since the general acceptance of hard lenses in the Fifties. Consumers now enjoy a wide choice of gas permeable, soft, permanent, disposable, bifocal and tinted lenses.

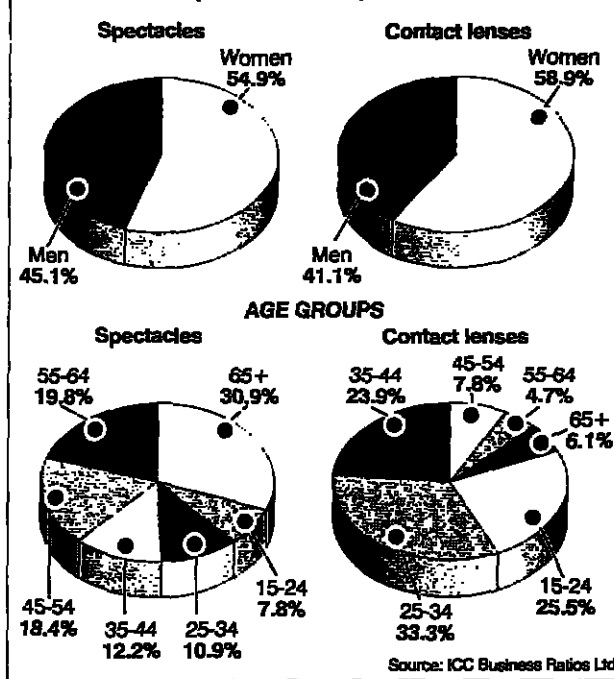
Many people are also asking for special glasses or contacts for specific tasks such as sports, operating VDUs and driving.

Even though price still remains the main purchasing consideration, consumers are also becoming conscious of the array of stylish frames available and the large variety of lenses, such as super slim high-index glass, lightweight plastics, varifocals and special tints.

Finally, as half the glasses are worn by people over 55, a large percentage of our ageing baby boomers will be buying them in the future.

● The author is editor of Vision Now

SPECTACLE AND CONTACT LENS WEAR BY ADULTS IN THE UK (% of wearers) 1990



The twain are starting to meet

Optometrists and ophthalmologists, two separate disciplines, are increasingly willing to share tasks

OPTOMETRISTS test visual acuity and prescribe corrective lenses. Ophthalmologists, who are medically qualified, specialise in the diagnosis and treatment of eye diseases. And the two professions are coming closer together.

Optometrists are discussing with the other "eye" professions and with the health department the possibility of being involved in the monitoring of common eye diseases such as glaucoma, and oph-

thalmic surgeons are now performing laser surgery to correct myopia (short-sightedness), the most common refractive error dealt with by optometrists.

Optometrists are taught how to spot eye disease and if they do so during an eye test must refer the person to a

doctor. But moves are afoot, says Professor Geoff Woodward, professor of optometry and visual science at London's City University, to let the optometrist monitor the progress of treatment.

Patients diagnosed as having an eye problem such as glaucoma may, after treatment, be referred back to an optometrist

under a newly agreed protocol. The system is already being used locally and the hope is that eventually national protocols will enable the two professions to co-operate in this way. The optometrist would be a "measurer", Professor Woodward says. "Glaucoma is a disease where the pressure in the eye is raised and presses on the retinal blood supply," he says. "Gradually, the retina is damaged from the periphery inwards."

"The patient is normally diagnosed on three features, losses in the visual field, increases in visual intraocular pressure and changes in appearance of the optic disc, the area where the optic nerve comes into the eye."

Glaucoma is never cured,

only controlled. Professor Woodward says. Optometrists can monitor whether the control measures are working. He adds: "Hospital visits are expensive, so this kind of monitoring locally could be more cost-efficient."

As optometrists edge towards more involvement in the medical side of eye treat-

surface of the eye, the cornea, is too highly curved, or the eye is too long, or both.

The myopic eyeball is shaped like a rugby ball so the rays of light are brought to focus short of the retina. Flattening the front surface corrects the condition.

Ophthalmologists say that the laser acts as a pair of "photon scissors", chopping the bonds between the molecules that make up the tissue. "You don't touch the tissue," says John Marshall, the Frost

Professor of Ophthalmology at St Thomas', London. "You send a beam of invisible radiation on to it and suddenly a depression will appear in the surface."

The technique is quite different from radial keratotomy, where deep radial cuts are made in the cornea so that the resultant weakening will lead to a

flattening of the cornea. The cuts are made to a depth of 90 to 95 per cent of corneal thickness. The laser method removes no more than 5 to 10 per cent of corneal thickness.

The milder the patient's myopia, Professor Marshall says, the more predictable the outcome of PRK and the higher the probability of normal, unaided vision.

MALCOLM BROWN

Glasses are now available to suit every individual need

When someone talks about needing glasses, what they really mean is that they need lenses, but which lens? Spectacle-wearers today have an almost endless variety of options, but unlike their European counterparts, the British seem either not to know of the choices available or are too conservative to take advantage of them. *Pat Blair writes.*

As one of the leading lens and frame manufacturers in this country, the Munich-based firm of Rodenstock, says: "The possibilities for correcting the vision defects of the human eye are as varied as the defects themselves."

For those who merely need magnification for otherwise healthy eyes, ready-made reading glasses are widely available, not only from optician's premises. One need only try them on and keep testing different strengths until the most suitable pair is found. Ready-made models can cost less than £10, but make no accommodation for differences between the right and left eye (although with minor differences that is unlikely to matter).

Figures from the British Ophthalmic Lens Manufacturers and Distributors Association (BOLMADA) show that currently 80 per cent of the nine million pairs of lenses bought in this country are plastic, possibly because lenses made of plastic materials are generally lighter in weight than optical glass.

Customers are sometimes puzzled that one optician can supply their prescription spectacles with an hour or so, while

Seeing clearly, looking good

another may take a week or two. Few if any opticians in this country still make lenses on their premises. Many do, however, keep a stock of partially prepared lenses to refine on the spot to individual prescriptions, which is why they can supply at speed. Sophistication is the other end of the market.

Complicated prescriptions and those with "bespoke" refinements—such as additional hardened surfacing or special tints—take longer to make. In such cases prescriptions are sent to companies, such as Roden-

stock, Pilkington or one of the smaller manufacturers. Although they have computer-aided technology, a surprising amount of handwork is employed.

Recent advances in technology mean that lenses need not make the wearer appear to be looking through the bottom of a bottle. Even highly complicated lenses—glass or plastic—have become slimmer, flatter and lighter, giving less distortion at the edges for the wearer as well as being more comfortable and cosmetically attractive.

Most lenses can be supplied with a variety of surfaces to meet individual requirements: tints to blend with frames, additional scratch-resistant surfaces for careless users, anti-glare or photochromatic (darkening according to the brightness of the light). While the aim is to provide a clinically sound product that contributes to eye health, lens-makers and suppliers hope also to produce something that makes people feel good and look good.

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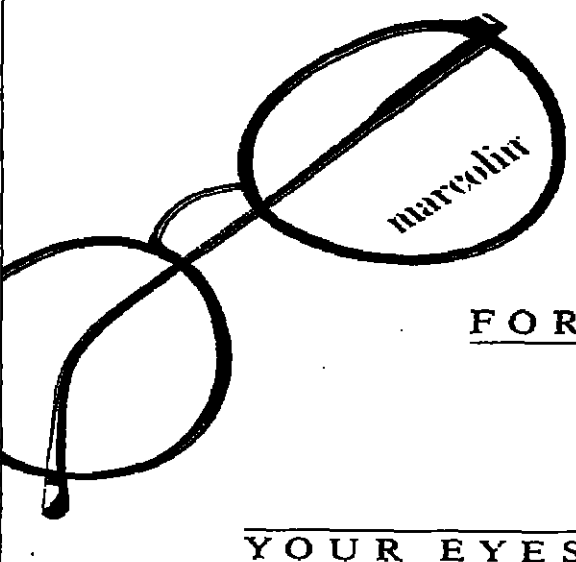
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Hidden but not incognito: Princess Margaret is not to be dazzled; Elton John flaunts his trademark; shining star Jack Nicholson; by appointment, the Princess of Wales

Choose any shades you like

Whether it is Ray Ban or Polaroid, Boots or Foster Grant, Silhouette or Shades, sunglasses are fashionable business. Glossy magazines, films and television have all helped promote a stylish approach to the way we protect our eyes from the dangers of harsh sunlight.

There are hundreds of styles to choose from at all prices. For eye protection alone, however, one need pay as little as £10 to buy sunglasses that win health care approval.

If lenses are coloured but offer no protection against ultraviolet light, they are likely to be more damaging than wearing no glasses at all, as they will confuse the eye's natural response.

The danger is simple. The pupil responds to yellow light. If you put a dark tint in front of your eye, it reduces the amount of yellow light reaching it. Therefore the pupil opens up. If you do not then guard against the harmful, yet invisible, UV light coming through, you risk eye damage.

Before reaching for a pair of sunglasses, make sure they combine eye protection with fashion, writes Pat Blair

Sunglasses, whether they come with plastic or glass lenses, may conform to the 1987 British Standard BS2724, which divides them into several categories. The three main types are: cosmetic purpose, general purpose and special purpose. As such, they should give a distortion-free view of the world — no bends, bubbles, blips or visible scratches — and the lenses should be impact resistant.

All sunglasses that claim to meet the standard should offer protection from the UV rays of the sun. However, they vary in the amount of light, or glare, that they let through to the eyes. Those designed for cosmetic or fashion purposes are merely lightly tinted lenses. These are not intended to be used against significant sunlight.

General purpose sunglasses should protect the eyes when the sunlight is intense — for example in snow or on

water, where glare can be reflected, or at high altitudes. Snow can reflect 85 per cent of UV rays, while water may reflect between 5 and 10 per cent of UV rays. Sand 8 per cent of UV. Gradient lenses, with the tint gradually paling from top to bottom, are generally not intended for such conditions.

Those who wear prescription spectacles need not resort only to "clip-on" covers. Sunglasses can be made up by an optician to an individual prescription in varying colours and in plastic or glass lenses. Sadly, many opticians seem rarely to suggest the possibilities, and it is often left to the customer to ask.

The tint should not distort natural colour vision, for example when looking at traffic lights. Photochromatic lenses, which darken in bright light and pale again in the shade, may be convenient for popping in from garden to house

and back. Although they act rapidly, however, they do not react to changed conditions as quickly as the human eye.

Light reflected from many directions — such as from disturbed water — can be reduced by polarising lenses. This introduces a filter that can cut dazzle, an attribute favoured by those driving in bright sunlight.

Many people buy non-prescription sunglasses in department stores and shops where there may be no professional advice on hand. However, a good deal can often be learned from the information on labels attached to the glasses.

A £14.50 pair of Samco glasses (style 14C145) bought from a John Lewis store, for example, carried the following information. They have CR39 lenses, which are made from a scratch-resistant optical plastic material, CR39; they will "eliminate all

of the sun's harmful rays with 100 per cent ultraviolet protection"; they are designed to reduce sun glare conforming to BS2724: 1987 general purpose; light transmission is 8-29 per cent; they are refraction class 1 — that is, they have no magnification properties and a line viewed through them should not appear distorted — and are suitable for all-day wear. They are said to be robust and "suitable for active leisure and sport". They also carry the warning appropriate to all sunglasses — they are not to be used to view the sun directly.

"There are quite a lot of things the public can do if they take a little care to look at the swing ticket first — and only secondly at the style," says Dr Nizar Harji, who is director of personnel and professional services at Boots Opticians.

Although unlabelled sunglasses may be suitable, it is sensible if no professional advice is to hand and no detailed label is provided, to opt for a different pair, carrying the data upon which a more informed choice can be made.

Wearing spectacles need not be a handicap and can be a fashion accessory, Mary-Rose Cooney writes

The optical frame industry is determined to convey the message that eyewear is essentially fashion and therefore fun and that everyone who wears glasses should have more than one pair to ring the changes, not just in case of breakages.

For historic reasons, wearing glasses has been considered as thrilling as wearing orthopaedic shoes. To anybody brought up with the National Health Service attitude towards spectacles, the idea of glasses as fashion accessories has been viewed with great suspicion and almost puritan unease.

Some opticians still think that being able to see properly is quite enough. This aspect is vital, but taking pleasure in looking good in glasses is not mere vanity but a psychological necessity and shows a positive attitude that should be encouraged.

Fashion designers have developed collections of eyewear which range from the simple and stylish to the romantic, dramatic and simply weird. Names like Gucci, Gianfranco Ferre, Valentino, Ralph Lauren, Dior, Kenzo, Versace and Gaultier have produced



Mr Mottram: "before" ...

styles which have had an influence on the concept of spectacles as fashion and on the kind of designs available in the medium and budget price ranges.

Most good opticians keep a reasonable cross section of frames but can be afraid of trying new styles and materials (titanium is wonderfully light and strong but quite expensive), so it is up to consumers to take up the cudgel and make some demands if they want to see the latest from the new, younger looking Gucci collection or the more bold and innovative Gianfranco Ferre.

Some opticians and optical assistants are developing real

skills in advising on good colour and shape in a frame as well, of course, as suitability for particular lens requirements, comfort and fit. But advice and interest is still sporadic.

Looking good in glasses is not mere vanity. This is where considering personality and lifestyle is so important. Ms Russo would never have been happy with frames that were pretending not to be there.

Christine Russo from London liked to wear frames with a bit of originality, but wore pale coloured plastics that literally swamped her. She was persuaded to wear

gold metal or a metal and plastic combination (both by Gucci) and the effect was a good deal more harmonious though equally striking.

This is where considering personality and lifestyle is so important. Ms Russo would never have been happy with frames that were pretending not to be there.

Jim Mottram from Tyne-side wanted a total remake so off came his moustache and on went a pair of the currently popular "retro" metal frames (Ralph Lauren), which were much more appropriate for his image than the original, though colourful, plastic frames. The "before" and "after" pictures printed here



... and "after" in metal

show the remarkable change to his "look".

A small wardrobe of frames is the next requirement. As a middle aged judge said quite reasonably: "When I am in court I like to wear suitably solemn glasses, but when I'm on the golf course or dining out, I want to wear quite different frames". In other words you don't normally wear wellington boots to the opera.

Celebrities can provide excellent examples of how to wear glasses, or not as the case may be. Sylvester Stallone has one particular pair of glasses he seems to be devoted to, but Elton John is very rarely seen in the same pair twice. Sophia Loren likes to change styles and has even gone as far as designing her own collection.

There is now an award in the UK, "Spectacle Wearer of the Year", sponsored by Lambert Optical, which chooses celebrities considered to have done the most for the image of spectacles during the year. The most recent winners were Gloria Hunniford and James Whale, followed by Cliff Richard and Lorraine Kelly.

The author is creative director of Lambert Optical

Starting eye care early

Children's sight can now be objectively assessed

The great majority of children have no kind of eye test until they are four, yet identifying and treating defective eyesight at an early age can be very important. Long-sighted infants whose eyes are not corrected are now known to be at greater risk than others of developing more serious conditions such as strabismus (squint) or amblyopia "lazy eye", writes Malcolm Brown.

Amblyopia can usually be corrected if diagnosed early enough, and squints can be straightened using spectacles, exercises or surgery. But it is better if they do not occur in the first place. Studies at Cambridge University's visual development unit have shown that infants given spectacles to deal with severe long-sightedness are much less likely than others to develop a squint or a lazy eye.

Dr Janette Atkinson, co-director of the Cambridge team, says that 70 per cent of four-year-olds who did not wear spectacles after being diagnosed in infancy as severely long-sighted went on to develop strabismus or amblyopia. By contrast, of

camera takes three photographs. The first focuses on the baby's eyes so that the pupil size can be determined. In the second and third photographs, the camera is deliberately defocused. This produces what are called "blur images". The size of the image indicates the refractive state of the eye.

If the baby has focused on the camera, the light that bounces off its eye will return along the same path, producing a very small spot of light on the video monitor. If the baby has focused a long way behind or in front of the camera, because it is not long or short-sighted, the image on the video will be large, faint and diffuse.

One of the benefits of the video-refractor, says Shirley Anker, the senior orthoptist on the team, is that one can see what both eyes are doing simultaneously. "You're not doing it with one eye at a time. You're looking at what the child is doing in its natural state."

When the technique was first used, the Cambridge group employed the standard technique of putting drops in the infant's eyes to dilate the pupils and relax the focusing. But they have now found a way to carry out the screening without drops.

A baby's eyes can be tested before it has learnt to speak

which should speed up the process. Professor John Barbur, professor of optics and visual science at London's City University, is now using a technique which measures so-called "pupil response".

What scientists have realised in the past few years is that pupil response is related not only to the brightness of the stimulus (if you shine a bright light the pupil constricts), but also to how much that eye is seeing and what signal is getting through to the brain, in terms of both white light and different colours. The City team has a grant from Wellcome to use its technique on the newborn.

The scientists use infrared cameras to monitor what is happening to the diameter of the pupil when the subject is subjected to different stimuli. "If we can just measure these responses and assess how they develop in new born children," says Professor Barbur, "we will have an objective measure of how colour discrimination and visual acuity develop at the level of the brain. It's very attractive because it's non-invasive."

The researchers use the Cambridge video-refractor for their work. A fibre optic carries a tiny flash along the middle of the instrument's camera lens. The video

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Transfers benefit Liverpool in Europe

United midfield disrupted by Uefa Cup rules

By IAN ROSS

BEFORE Manchester United can even begin to contemplate transposing their impressive early-season domestic form on to the European arena, Alex Ferguson must seek to unravel the mass of bureaucratic red tape which has so hampered his team's preparations.

Yesterday, as he readied his squad for tonight's Uefa Cup first round, first leg tie against Torpedo Moscow at Old Trafford, Ferguson was more concerned with birthplaces and length of service than with tactics, as he sought to comply with the complex legislation which governs the eligibility of non-national players in the three main European competitions.

Under Uefa's controversial, not to say reviled, ruling, no team is allowed to name more than three "foreign" players in its 16-strong panel. Although two assimilated players are now permitted, both must have played under the auspices of their club's national association — in this case, the Football Association — for an uninterrupted five-year period, three years of which must have been at youth level.

Having carefully studied his limited options, Ferguson had yet to resolve what he conceded was a "tricky problem", although he was able to name six men who will definitely start tonight's game.

Irvine, an assimilated player, Martin, Pallister and Bruce will form a defence which Ferguson said "picks itself under the circumstances".

In the absence of Dublin, who is injured, Hughes and McClair, two non-nationals, will be paired together in attack and, bearing in mind Ferguson's overwhelming desire for a clean sheet, Schmeichel, the Danish international goalkeeper, seems almost certain to become United's third permitted foreigner.

It is in midfield where United will suffer change and disruption on a grand, perhaps disturbing, scale. With Ince suspended and Robson injured, Webb, Wallace and Phelan, three players of proven ability but limited match practice, are likely to be ushered forward out of the shadows. Phelan's movement, however, is still restricted by

an ankle injury. Giggs is likely to be United's second assimilated player.

Four members of United's successful youth side — Beckham, Butt, Neville and Casper — have been drafted into the squad and will be named as substitutes, with the possibility of one starting the match should Phelan be forced to withdraw.

"I am quite confident about our chances because my team is currently playing with confidence," the United manager said. Meanwhile, Graeme Souness may have upset many a Liverpool supporter by sanctioning the sale of such senior professionals as Saunders and Houghton, but by doing so he may have improved his club's chances of making a significant impact in the Cup Winners' Cup. By replacing non-nationals with the likes of Stewart and James, both English-born, Souness has reduced considerably the damaging effects of the Uefa legislation.

"We are better off than we were last year," he said.

Although Liverpool learned yesterday that their appeal for Whelan to be classed as an assimilated player had been rejected, Rush has been granted such status.

Souness is unable to call upon McManaman, Jones, Barnes and Thomas because of injury for tonight's first round, first leg tie against Apollon Limassol of Cyprus at Anfield.

Limassol, the first Cypriot opponents Liverpool have faced in more than 25 years of European involvement, reached the second round of the European Cup last season before being defeated by the holders, Red Star Belgrade, 5-1 on aggregate.

Trevor Francis, the manager of Sheffield Wednesday, may well make a rare, full appearance tonight as the south Yorkshire club returns to European football for the first time since 1963. With "Hirst injured and Bright, the recent acquisition from Crystal Palace, ineligible, Francis is thought to be considering partnering Warhurst in a makeshift attack against Spora Luxembourg in the Uefa Cup, first round, first leg tie at Hillsborough.

A special charity game to raise funds for Yugoslav refugees may be staged at Anfield later this year, Andrew Watt, a London-based agent, has asked Liverpool to consider playing host to a fixture between Red Star Belgrade and Sarajevo. "We have been asked to consider staging such a game but, as of yet, nothing has been decided one way or the other," Peter Robinson, Liverpool's chief executive, said. "I think other English clubs have also been contacted by the agent."

Leeds prepare, page 31



Point of view: Mansell takes the helm at the Southampton Boat Show yesterday before his promotional trip to Harrods

Our Nige meets the fluffy and famous

By NORMAN HOWELL

NIGEL Mansell, wearing designer sunglasses but without that habitual Canon cap, arrived in a chauffeured Mercedes outside Harrods yesterday and was welcomed by a large fluffy dog presented to him by Mohamed Al Fayed, the chairman of the store that likes to call itself the most famous in the world.

What was the Formula One world champion doing on a publicity stunt in Knightsbridge when international motor sport is in turmoil over his decision to

retire and *The Sun* is busy organising a protest march on the headquarters of the Frank Williams team, which has failed to offer Mansell sufficiently good terms to retain his services?

Well, the answer is to be found on Mansell's helmet — the trademark of the shop that attracts the rich and famous.

Harrods sponsors Mansell, as does Sunseeker motorboats, which is what led Our Nige to spend time at the Southampton Boat Show before coming to SW3.

In Southampton and in London, he reiterated that he

had definitely finished with Formula One. "In Adelaide, I will finish with F1 forever," he said. The reference is to the last race on November 8.

In the United States, where he now seems destined to be next year, he will not get the kind of genuine adulation with which the Harrods customers welcomed him.

Bearing in mind that the average Harrods shopper is not likely to be the average Mansell fan, the genuine passion that greeted his store walkabout is surely a barometer of his popularity.

At the end of his afternoon tea with the chairman, there

was a sizeable crowd gathered outside door No. 3, presided over by two severe green-coated men and a couple of more robust gentlemen in dark suits and cropped hair.

Mansell and Al Fayed swept through to the exit with assorted hangers-on. "Nigel, the Williams team have put out a statement," The shoulders stiffened. "What does it say?"

"It talks of regrets and rejected offers: do you have a comment?" "I still have no comment."

It seems now ever more likely that in the early part of

next week Williams will be announcing that his drivers for next year will be Alain Prost and Martin Brundle.

But Brundle denied that he had been approached by either McLaren or Williams. "I keep reading about it in the press," he said. He put his chances of driving for either team at 50-50 yet he did confirm he and Carl Haas had spoken about an Indy Car drive.

Meanwhile, as Our Nige was driven off, he was chased down the street by a gaggle of excited Japanese and Italian girls. He'll be missing that in the States next year.

McKeag seeks talks with FA over cuts

GORDON McKeag, the Football League president, wants urgent discussions with the Football Association over plans to cut the Premier League to 18 clubs. McKeag's move follows a reassurance from Graham Kelly, the chief executive, that under no circumstances will the FA sanction an extension of the Premier League.

Kelly has made it clear that he wants the set-up reduced by four clubs from the present 22 by the mid-90s. There are firm dates for a cut to 20.

McKeag approached Kelly at an executive committee meeting after learning that several Football League clubs had been sounded out on forming a second division of the Premier League.

"I was sufficiently con-

cerned that the proposal did not gain momentum that I thought it right to raise the matter immediately so that it could be scotched at the outset," McKeag said yesterday. "Graham Kelly stated categorically that there will be no second division of the Premier League and I am happy to accept that."

"I don't know who made the approaches, but undoubtedly the reason for it is uncertainty among some Premier League clubs who are not members of the 'Platinum Eight'."

McKeag was referring to Arsenal, Manchester United, Liverpool, Nottingham Forest, Everton, QPR, Aston Villa and Leeds, who last week combined to block a £13 million Bass sponsorship deal.

That has caused a deep split with the other 14 clubs.

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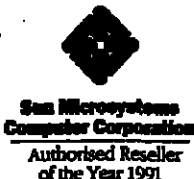
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Yorath urges clubs to screen players

By JOHN GOODBODY

TERRY Yorath, the Wales football team manager, whose son died suddenly from an incurable disease controllable by treatment, yesterday said that senior clubs should screen their players for potentially fatal heart conditions.

Daniel Yorath, 15, who was ready to sign for Leeds United before collapsing last May, did not undergo any such check during his medical examination at the club. "That is the part that I cannot come to terms with," his father said.

Yorath is supporting the plan of the National Sports Medicine Institute (NSMI) to set up a pilot screening programme to discover if athletes are suffering from hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), the most common cause of unexpected death in young people.

Yorath said after the conference of the Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association that considering the millions of pounds in football, it would seem obvious to screen young players. "This should occur as soon as boys sign schoolboy forms. The game has some

kind of responsibility to do that," he said.

Intensive exercise can trigger an existing disorder and cause sudden heart failure. Among the leading sportsmen who have probably died from HCM are Wulf Slack, the cricketer, David Longhurst, the York City footballer, and Adrian Hawkins, a potential member of this year's British Olympic cycling team.

Dr Dan Tunstall Pedoe, the medical director of the London marathon, in which there have been 200,000 successful finishers and only one death from HCM, said that he would be sorry if anyone was deterred from taking exercise, because of the evident physical benefits. HCM is a genetic condition, involving a massive thickening of the heart muscles.

Greg McLatchie, the medical director of the NSMI, said discussions were already taking place on how to set up a pilot scheme on athletes, probably in Glasgow, which he termed "the heart-stop centre of Europe".

ALLAN Lamb, who has been left out of the England cricket party to tour India and Sri Lanka, is returning to his roots for winter employment, having signed a contract to play for Western Province in South Africa.

Lamb, 38, who yesterday scored his fifth century of a season in which he has led Northamptonshire to third place in the Britannic Assurance championship, previously played for the province between 1972 and 1982, with the exception of one season in which he represented Orange Free State.

"It will be great to have the chance of playing once more for the team which gave me my first taste of big-time cricket when I was a schoolboy," Lamb said. "It will be a fresh challenge. I want to do well and show the sort of form that will make me a candidate for England again."

Lamb will be back to play out the final two years of his contract with Northamptonshire. But before he can return to the land of his birth, he has to face a Test and County

Lamb opts for new challenge to enhance his Test return

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

Cricket Board disciplinary enquiry into his allegations of ball-doctoring made against the Pakistan bowlers in an unauthorised newspaper article.

Also vowing to regain their England places for Australia's visit to defend the Ashes, are Chris Broad, dismissed last month by Nottinghamshire, and David Gower, whose omission from the Indian tour party has caused controversy.

In a surprise move yesterday, Broad rejoined Gloucestershire, the county he left under a cloud in 1983 in order to enhance his chances of breaking into Test cricket.

While with Nottinghamshire he won 25 caps, but his England career ended when he went on the unofficial tour of South Africa with Mike Gatting's team and, along with the other members of the side, was banned by the International Cricket Council.

Broad, born and educated in Bristol, will be 35 later this month. He has scored nearly 21,000 first-class runs and said yesterday he had received offers from seven counties

"Including two with Test match grounds. I gave a lot of thought to my future, but decided I wanted to return to the county where it all started. The way Nottinghamshire sacked me left a bad taste."

"Gloucestershire look a good side, but need the experience, having lost Bill Athey, that I hope I can give them."

Gower, who was speaking after signing a new two-year contract with Hampshire, said: "I really must set my sights on an England place and I shall have to keep on trying."

"I have a good record against Australia, but that in itself is not enough to win selection. I will have to be at the top of the list making runs for Hampshire when the selection meetings are held."

Gower said he was "flattered" by the campaign which has been mounted to have him brought back into the England tour party. "But I don't think it will achieve much," he said.

Kent finish second, page 30
Season's averages, page 30

Hogan and Faldo are cast in the same mould

By MITCHELL PLATTS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

NICK Faldo must be reckoned the most complete golfer since Ben Hogan. He has had ambitions to be recognised as a true champion since he first struck a golf ball and his craving for immortality has driven him to distraction at times. Now he has succeeded in setting a standard which will assure that future generations remember this as the Faldo era. In years to come, people will be proud to say: "I saw Nick Faldo play."

Faldo did not set out to imitate Hogan. Quite simply, it was in his nature. Henry Cotton, who won three Open Championships, as Faldo has done, felt he got to know Hogan well, or almost as well as any man could. Cotton described Hogan as having a few friends, whom he liked and understood and who understood him, but otherwise as being a loner. It is a description which would fit Faldo.

Hogan would practice for hour upon hour because he wanted to know how he would

hit the ball when he was tired. Faldo has committed himself in much the same way to the practice range. His determination, for instance, to master the half-shot during the last year demonstrates his desire to keep learning. "I apply myself at all times," he said. "I assess what I need to do with every shot. Some criticism me for that, some take it as being pretty impressive." Cotton pointed out in his book *Thanks for the Game* that even Hogan found the half-shot difficult to play.

Another difference is that Faldo does encourage young players to consult him if they truly wish to learn. Gary Player once telephoned Hogan to seek advice. Hogan listened, then asked: "Gary, whose clubs are you playing?" Player replied, "Spalding." Hogan gave himself time to say only, "Well, ask Mr Spalding then," before he put down the phone.

Faldo, however, can be brittle at times. He is essentially a shy man, and his best method of defence is to attack. In that sense, he might have his



MITCHELL
PLATTS
Golf Correspondent

detractors. His golf game, however, is admired by all and his success in the GA European Open on Sunday was achieved with such ease that one wonders how much more there is to come.

Faldo has won the Carrolls Irish Open, the Open Championship, the Scandinavian Masters and the GA European Open this season. He has won each of his last three tournaments, he is No. 1 in the Volvo Order of Merit with £565,319 and he needs to earn only £8,848 in the Lancôme Trophy, which starts on Thursday, to set an official prize-winning record for the PGA European Tour. Faldo, 156 under par for tournaments in Europe and the United States this season, has

not finished outside of the top four in his last nine events, which includes the US Open (joint fourth) and US PGA Championship (joint second). He has earned more than £4 million in prize-money alone in his 17-year career.

Hogan once spoke of a dream in which he had 17 holes in one. "I woke up mad, because of the one I missed," Faldo dreams, too, but he lives, and works, in a real world where right now he is the master of his trade, the role model for all Faldo, at 35, plays such a calculated game that others, even Severiano Ballesteros, appear totally mesmerised. While Faldo seems unlikely to be victim again to the capricious nature of the sport, Ballesteros, sadly

out of form, faces the severest examination of his career.

This time 12 months ago, Ballesteros was flying high at the top of the Order of Merit. Faldo, however, was determined to regain the No. 1 position. He has, by banishing Ballesteros and other European rivals to the wings and by regaining centre stage himself following the matinee performance by the American, Fred Couples, in the Masters.

Couples found the glare of the spotlight too hot to handle. Faldo positively revels in play-

ing the starring role in moments of high drama. His Open success will remain the apogee of a year in which he still has several targets, including the Toyota World Match Play Championship at Wentworth and the Johnnie Walker World Championship in Jamaica in December. Then, of course, he will put his mind to the quest for more major championships. He is 100-1 to complete the grand slam in 1993, 40 years on from Hogan winning the Masters, US Open and Open.

Tournament	Position	Score	Winnings (£)
Asian Classic	20th	277 (-11)	5,325
Desert Classic	5th	276 (-12)	14,850
Honda Classic (US)	17th	279 (+8)	15,444
Nassau Invitation (US)	MC	149 (+5)	
Players' Championship (US)	2nd	277 (-11)	69,980
Princess Classic (US)	8th	281 (+1)	50,250
US Masters	13th	285 (+6)	15,500
B & H International	3rd	288 (par)	25,150
Spanish Open	5th	272 (-18)	44,440
Volvo PGA	2nd	277 (-11)	15,000
Dunhill Masters	4th	272 (-10)	30,000
Irish Open	1st	274 (-14)	76,274
US Open	4th	281 (+8)	25,800
French Open	3rd	280 (+8)	22,520
Scottish Open	3rd	285 (+19)	33,780
Open Championship	1st	272 (-12)	55,000
Scandinavian Masters	1st	277 (-11)	100,000
US PGA	2nd	281 (+8)	51,562
European Open	1st	282 (-10)	100,000



WOMEN p5

Why Iva
Pekárková
swears in six
languages

LIFE & TIMES

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16 1992

SPECIAL OFFER p4

Your chance
to fly free to
America's
East Coast

No more war? Then calm down



Nigella Lawson
considers Neil
Lyndon's "no holds
barred" polemic on

feminism and asks whether he
knows who, or what, he attacks

Women are angry" ran a popular slogan of the 1970s. The sentiment was proclaimed at public meetings and at private consciousness-raising groups. Placards were inscribed with it, hearts etched with it. Now, men are angry. One man, Neil Lyndon, is particularly angry. He is more than angry, he is hopping mad. Furious. Spitting. And the full frenzy of his rage is given vent in *No More Sex War*, a thumping piece of polemic, in which, as he gallantly warns us, "no holds are barred". It takes something of a sleight of hand to argue, as he does, that feminism is the "filthy incubus", the "poisonous orthodoxy", the totalitarianism that has blighted the public institutions and private lives of our age at the same time as asserting that it has had precious little effect — "not much more than a slighting impression" — on the common dealings of ordinary people, but then Lyndon is no mean polemicist. Or rather, he is a mean polemicist: breath-takingly selective, a master of casuistry, keen to believe the worst and eager, certainly, to present the worst.

If you are going to attack something, you have, as Lyndon concedes, to be in agreement on what is the object of attack. If feminism is to be the focus of this debate we all have to understand what is meant by it. What, then, does Lyndon mean by it? "Here", as he disarmingly puts it, "is my best offer".

"The common denominator is the belief that women share interests which are distinct from men's and that those interests can be advanced only by women acting collectively. That much, I submit, must be agreed. No variety of thought or style of attitude could be termed feminist unless it involved these presumptions."

This no doubt sums up what a good many people, feminists included, believe to constitute feminist thinking, but it cannot serve as a definition of feminism. It is unworkable. It jumps ahead of itself. It excludes too many feminists — myself included — who fail to find themselves or their beliefs represented by it. Let me offer another definition, not my own, but one posited by the philosopher Jane Radcliffe Richards in her book, *The Skeptical Feminist*. The somewhat meaty-mouthed title should not give Lyndon cause for sneer or cheer: this is no faint-hearted apology, but a measured attempt to give a philosophical account of the "strong fundamental case for feminism".

The case is this: "that women suffer from systematic social injus-

ice because of their sex". This definition serves to constitute "the essence of feminism, with anyone who accepts it counting as a feminist". It is a simpler definition than Lyndon's, more comprehensive, and more accurately taken as a common denominator among those who describe themselves as feminist. Feminism, thus, "is not concerned with a group of people it wants to benefit, but with a type of injustice it wants to eliminate".

I am not shirking my responsibilities here. I know as well as Lyndon does that for many feminists this is an inadequate article of faith. Of course he's right that many feminists see themselves as acting expressly for the rights of women at the expense of others' rights. Many feminists do believe that the duty of feminism is to provide a movement of support for women who suffer from injustice with no regard to or even acceptance of the injustices suffered by men.

But a definition, if it is to be workable, if it is indeed to be valid, has to take in the broad body of belief, the cornerstone on which it is founded, not merely some people who, however vocally, hold further and more extreme beliefs.

This means that while Lyndon may be quite right in decriing some feminists and exposing the unreasonableness of their beliefs, he cannot by logical extension believe himself to have disproved the fundamentals of feminism.

This having been said, it is undoubtedly true that much feminist debate has descended into a slanging match between the sexes. Much of this lamentable state of affairs may be ascribed to what Richards names as "an ineradicable human tendency to take sides". This is an explanation, not a defence: of course Lyndon is right to take offence at a pronouncement such as "all men are Idi Amin" or at the tendency of some feminists to use maleness as a criterion of badness, and femaleness as the criterion for goodness. To resist such statements is an obvious duty, but any critic must take pains to ensure that injury, however keenly or justifiably felt, does not give rise to injustice. We don't perhaps need to refer to Richards again to remind us of the dangers, but I shall quote her unapologetically all the same: "Resistance to the feminist movement easily turns into a resistance to seeing that women have any problems at all."

A pronounced tendency, I don't deny it, to counter injury with injury has coloured much feminist output. "You've made us suffer, now we'll make you suffer" is no way to eliminate any form of injustice, which is, as we have



The Young Spartans or Spartan girls provoking the boys by Edgar Degas: countering injury with injury only lowers the argument to the level of playground farce

shown, the proper concern of feminism. But Lyndon, while despising this response, reacts in exactly the same way. Those bitches have got their talons into the very heart of his life, just watch him nip the guts out of all them, sister by sister. This at times degenerates into a playground farce — he started it. No she did. No he did. She did — to the extent that there is nothing the reader wants so much as to bang their heads together.

Nevertheless to say, as some feminists have done, that all men are rapists has become more culturally acceptable than to say, as some men have indeed said in the past, that all women are whores. Popular opinion does seem to hold illogically that it is less injurious to utter wholesale condemnations of men than to demean all women. Without wishing to allow Lyndon for one moment to believe that I am in favour of further dissemination of that injustice, I would like to offer a historical perspective.

It cannot be denied that the lives of women have been in the main controlled by men (just as those men have controlled the lives of other men) and that that control includes not only the legislative power which defines what sort of lives women (and other men) can lead but also the social and economic clout which fashions the balance of power between the sexes in their private dealings. When men were heard to say "all women are hysterics" or "a woman's place is in the home" there was a real sense in which a woman could be prevented from engaging in those activities which her supposed innate hysteria or her presumed natural function would seem to

disbar her. These allegations more than slighted women, they acted as a restraining order on her very self. The same, for all their wrongheadedness, cannot be said for the pronouncements that vilify men. I do not defend them, but it does no harm to look at matters in this light.

This brings us to what for Lyndon is the noisiest of bêtes noires, the Patriarchy, elsewhere and often described as "the universal political structure which privileges men at the expense of women". Historically speaking, men have had — and still have — more power than women and have used that power to define and curtail the role of women. Anthropologically speaking, there may have been a purpose in this, which was, as Lyndon puts it, that "if women were to have babies, if the tribe was to reproduce, a system of concessions was required which allowed for the cardinal uncertainties of women to know when they might become pregnant and for how many years they might be suckling infants".

Quite so, but as the structure evolved, as convention cemented, it becomes apparent that one man's system of concessions can seem another woman's oppression. The difficulty here is that Lyndon refuses to see that male power can be construed as the determined holding on to privilege, ever. The fact that many men still occupy more positions of power than women would seem then to be a historical fact devoid of political weight. Institutions, positions of power, why even language itself, are all neutral and genderless according to Lyndon.

If we are to look at the word patriarchy, which in its literal translation means "rule of the fathers", it has to signify that it is still regarded as convention for children to take the father's name and, to a lesser extent though the practice is still widespread, for a woman to take her husband's name on marriage. Space is short, and so my arguments are necessarily curtailed, but the fact that Lyndon singularly ignores the fact that in modern society, still, a person's status is customarily defined by his or her relation to the male is baffling. Surely it is worthy of comment?

What Lyndon also fails to take on board is the questioning of some feminists as to the very hold of patriarchy. The collusion of women in this set-up has to be investigated, and has been, as does the apparent reluctance of some men to take advantage of what feminism might seem to offer. What Lyndon asks for — that fathers should be regarded as having the same rights to their children as mothers do, that men should not be statutorily excluded from all the benefits of family life that are accorded women — many feminists welcome. But more than welcome, it is necessary. The failure of judges to grant men custody of their children or their apparent inability to see that the father can have the same responsibilities and concerns for his child as a mother is routinely accepted to have towards her is not the failure of feminism, but more the failure of those in power to take it seriously.

When, to take just one instance, a few years ago, a judge refused to let a 17-year-old youth adopt the baby that his 16-year-old former girl-

friend was carrying, he expressed the view that a man that age was too young to know he could accept the responsibilities that rearing children involved. The implication was that men would tire of such ties and not have the sticking power for such a course. Lyndon would no doubt resent this frankly sexist and injurious observation. So did many feminists who (despite the silence with which feminists have, so Lyndon charges, greeted the injustices done to men) were keen to voice their disapproval in print. I cannot see how the judge's decision can be identified with feminist principles; rather, it supports a sexist, stereotypical view of life that is in direct opposition to them.

If Lyndon wishes to see a fairer state of play between the sexes and to see feminists sign the non-aggression pact he so speciously proffers, I suggest, in future, a less adversarial approach.

What do you think?

Write in with your views to: Feminism Debate, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. To attend the debate on October 6, see ticket application form on page 4

TOMORROW

Enlightenment:
Richard Cork on
Tibet's sacred art

You think you're free — and along comes Vic

You want to meet Vic," said Jonathan a few months ago, when I was having a therapeutic snivel one evening after a movie.

"Why?" I sobbed. "Because he's a great bloke," he said, heartily. "Don't be so suspicious all the time, Lynne. Loosen up. Vic is a real free spirit, with marvellous ideas, and funny enough his last girlfriend just threw him out so he's available. Some sort of bust-up over money I think. Anyway, I'll introduce you."

"What does he do?" I sniffed. "He's very young at heart. Ha ha good old Vic."

"What does he do, though?" "Well, he's very artistic, and he's promised himself that if he doesn't get into something by the time he's 45, he'll get a proper job."

I thought about it. The distinct odour of rat wifled past my nostrils, unignorable.

"Does he like cats?" I asked at last.

"No, he's allergic I think." "Thank goodness for that, then," I sighed with relief. "I had an awful feeling for a moment that he was just my type."

I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but Vic is a phenomenon of our times. I used to think I was unlucky, but then I found out I was

just single and averagely tolerant of failure, which made me a pushover for layabouts. It is possible that married readers are unfamiliar with the world of Vic, but each single woman discovers him for herself in a very short while. The telltale clue is when you find yourself paying for both dinners, but pretending not to notice. "Did I? Never mind, it's only money. Tell me again about this project for knitting old cassette tape into lightweight blankets for the homeless, and charging them ten quid each. It sounds fascinating."

Feminists, of course, are not supposed to admit that there is a man shortage. We have this horrible feeling that it will give ammunition to Neil Lyndon, who will jump up and down saying "Tee hee! Told you! Only yourselves to blame!" But if there were a man shortage, hypothetically speaking, and it stretched out arid and flat to the far horizon, then you see that little shimmering dot in the distance? The one coming steadily towards you, like Omar Sharif in Lawrence of Arabia, getting slowly bigger and bigger and more sinister, as the only sign of available life? It's Vic.

Tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor, Vic," goes the prune-counting of the wisecracking single woman each

SINGLE LIFE

Lynne Truss decides it is time to throw in the sponger



morning. "Rich man, poor man, Vic, beggar man, thief, Vic." Vic ought to be more substantially represented in this list, really; but you get the gist. The really interesting thing, however, is not that single women are eating too many prunes. It is that Vic, like the devil, is everywhere, yet always comes as a surprise. When he's somebody else's Vic, you can identify him at once. Whereas when he is your

own, and he is blatantly using your mains electricity to recharge his car battery again, you can't.

"Ooh, so when will I get to meet him?" you say to a friend who recently went out with Vic on a first date.

"Soon, I expect. He's moved in." There is a short pause, while you tell yourself it's none of your business.

"Really?" you say, non-committally.

"It's working out quite well, actually. I mean, being home all day he can take in the milk."

"Great."

"And he cooks meals and things, and above all he trusts me with his problems."

"What does he do, then, exactly?"

"He's such a free spirit. Ha ha good old Vic."

"No, but what does he do?"

"He used to be a disc jockey. And he's got so many schemes he doesn't know where to start. He reckons he needs a mobile phone and some headed notepaper before he can really get going. But unfortunately he hasn't got either at the moment."

"He sounds — er, laid back."

"Yes! Sometimes we laugh about it. I say he's so laid back he'll fall off and hurt himself."

"Ho ho," you say, politely.

They are not all called Vic, incidentally. It would make things too easy if they were. But I do feel it is worthwhile to list a few of the obvious warning signs, so that more women can be spared the misery of asking Vic, on some fateful day, "Did you only love me for my free battery-charging facilities?" and then waiting for five agonising minutes while he seriously weighs up the pros and cons. The term "free spirit" ought to set alarm bells clanging; also Vic's habit of abruptly crossing the road to avoid walking past his bank. Watch out, too, for his suggestion (curious for a free spirit, after all) that you take out wills in one another's favour after only a brief acquaintance.

The really clever thing about Vic is that he feels most comfortable with women who are independent for reasons beyond the obvious. To an independent woman, you see, the notion of sponging is so unthinkable that she can't bring herself to accuse anybody of doing it. But the sad fact is, there are people in the world who consider themselves perfectly eligible for relationships yet whose personal motto is the same as New Hampshire's: "Live Free or Die." And unfortunately they don't all wear it on a T-shirt.

FIDELIO

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SEPTEMBER 28;
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Covent Garden

PHOTOGRAPH: GABRIELLA BIANCHI FOR GIVY MEDIA

Architecture: Marcus Binney salutes the achievements of expatriate Englishman Ralph Erskine, whom he votes leader of the profession

Unsung hero is in tune with the times

Who shall wear the crown? This is the question many architects are asking following the sudden death of Sir James Stirling, the widely acknowledged leader of their profession. My contender is Ralph Erskine.

Now in his seventies, he is a man who has given Functionalism a human face. While most of Britain's leading architects work principally for developers and commercial clients, hoping for the occasional plume public commission, Erskine has remained true to one of modernism's basic ideals: providing housing for the people. In Britain the Roman Point disaster made many architects in private practice distance themselves from housing. Erskine positively relishes the challenge.

So why is his name so little known? After all, he won the RIBA's coveted gold medal a decade before Richard Rogers and Norman Foster. But he has spent most of his working life in Sweden.

He began training in the early 1930s as a surveyor. It was an article on Misha Black's colourful furnishings for the new BBC headquarters that inspired his change to architecture. Learning that "while many architects were short of work, good architects were in short supply" he promptly resolved to become a good architect.

His studies drew him to Scandinavia and in May 1939 he set off across Sweden by bicycle, fell in love with the country, found a job in an architect's office and asked his fiancée to join him. They were married in Stockholm City Hall two days before war broke out.

Suddenly he was without a job. Erskine was a Quaker and a committed pacifist and had been attracted to Sweden partly because of its neutrality. His plans to join the Quaker Ambulance Service in Norway ended when the Germans invaded. With no hope of returning to England and no money, he set out to build a one-room box house on a rocky wooded site given to him by a farmer. He used any materials at hand, including loose stones in the woods and bricks from an abandoned kiln.

The single-room house was so ingenious that it formed the touchstone of his career. But Swedish winters taught him one lesson — never again design a house with an all-glass wall. After the war he stayed in Sweden, his draughtsmanship winning enough competitions to support his family.

In Britain his best-known work is the spectacular Byker Wall in Newcastle, a vast housing project that is easily misunderstood, followed recently by London's newest landmark, the Ark, the futuristic office development by Hammursmith flyover. Right now he is delivering designs for new stations on London's proposed Crossrail.

Erskine's latest buildings stand out in two ways. They are intentionally sculptural, breaking the matchbox image of Modernism, and brightly coloured. "I'm a romantic. I like expressive forms," he

says. But he insists it all grows out of an analysis of functions. "A writer or poet decides what to say and then chooses the most beautiful words to express it."

In functional terms what concerns him most is the interaction between people. "The job of buildings is to improve human relations. Architecture must ease them, not make them more difficult." At the Ark, instead of corridors and lift lobbies, there are open balconies, terraces and bridges angled so you can see and talk to people above and below.

"The more you bring people together, the more you must give them a chance to opt out and be private. It's beautifully done in older towns, very badly in modern ones." Buildings, he says, must enrich the towns in which they stand, not destroy them.

The streamlined forms of his new university library at Stockholm suggest an ocean liner, with sloping sides and towers



Ralph Erskine: "I like expressive forms... The job of buildings is to improve human relations"

angled like funnels. In the sun the cladding catches the light like silver foil and aluminium gauze, creating sparkling reflections. A particular Erskine touch are the outside reading balconies, hoisted high on stilts and angled towards the south like the covered seats on seaside promenades.

In Stockholm his World Trade Centre is like a vast glass-roofed conservatory flooded with light. The powerfully modelled staircase and lift tower shoots out through the roof so that when seen against a blue sky the effect is like a reflection in a pool of water. The lower level of this latter-day Crystal Palace contains the ultra-elegant concourse of the city's main bus station, so the public enjoys the sunlit atrium as much as the workers in the offices above. The Hammursmith Ark is similar, a huge atrium enclosed in an egg-shaped shell of glass, like a transparent dome in a science fiction drawing.

He talks enthusiastically about his latest large housing project at Tappström, an island on a lake west of Stockholm. "I won

in a competition but increasingly felt the whole scheme was wrong. So I spent every weekend entirely changing it. The problem was that the authorities had sold all the land by the water. I had to persuade them to buy it back, knock down the factories that had been built there and put houses instead."

He is a passionate devotee of Jane Jacobs and her theories that the traditional streets and layouts of older towns are superior to ordered modern ones. "At Tappström we have created 650 dwellings in walking distance of shops, entertainment and the church." He is very keen on creating a mix of both rented and privately owned housing. "In Britain local councils will build exclusively for lower income people. It's just a way of creating another ghetto." The problem, he says, is that no one wants to build cheap housing, as there is no money in it.

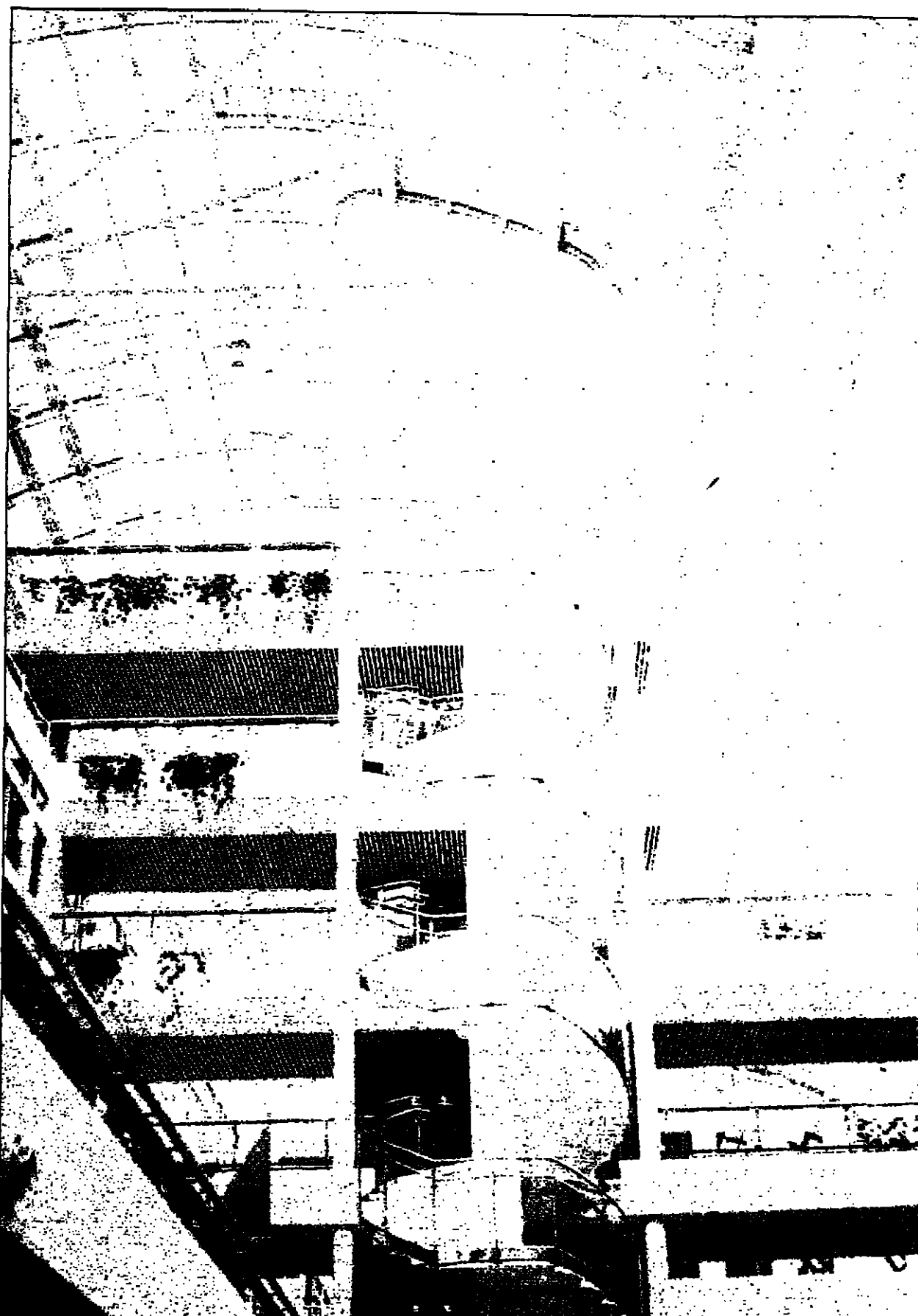
He places special emphasis on landscaping. "It's usually the last element in the budget and the first to be cut. But if planting is skimped, in my view, a project is fundamentally flawed. Plants give life. Everyone enjoys them. It's not just trees and shrubs. It's birdsong and wildlife. It's also very low cost compared to all the other embellishments you might want." At Byker he provided new residents with cheap plants for their gardens. The result is a suburban lushness almost unknown on a large housing estate.

Most people have the image of Byker as a mile-long wall of housing. Erskine designed it this way to shut out the noise of an inner-city expressway that was never built. But on the other side the wall, which is up to 11 storeys high, has fine views over the city. Better still is the wealth of cottage housing below, each house with its own garden. The budget was restricted, but strong colour was introduced by brightly-painted wood and even corrugated plastic.

"I enjoy colour. When I came to Sweden it was all Cubist modern — big windows and leaking flat roofs. I noticed how the traditional red houses were much better in the landscape, especially in winter when white looks dirty." At Tappström he uses collage to create a patchwork effect that gives the impression of housing that has grown over time.

The vernacular is a constant source of inspiration. "You know that book *Architecture Without Architects*, illustrating simple housing forms in southern Europe, Africa and Asia? They're some of the most beautiful buildings you'll ever see."

Erskine has gone to Africa and is working on projects in Botswana and Namibia. "Here in Europe I'm gilding the lily. There they really need advice. Housing has to be very low cost, of mud or even corrugated iron. But when you look closely at traditional African settlements they are very sophisticated. In one village we noticed five different gradations of space between public and private. There are fascinating decorative details such as finger-painting in the sand. And entirely



The interior of Erskine's World Trade Centre, Stockholm: "a vast glass-roofed conservatory flooded with light"

done by the women." Recently he won a £100,000 prize from the Wolf Foundation. "I put the money in a trust to encourage low-cost, ecological architecture. So far I've given two prizes. First to a Portuguese architect in Mozambique. He'd fought the authorities in the war and is now building two half universities; they can't afford whole ones. It's all concrete

blocks and corrugated asbestos but is beautiful as any I've seen." The other project is for a leper colony in India which two young Norwegian architects have designed and are now building.

How did he cope with his vast and varied workload and yet still retain personal involvement in design? "We are just six people here in my atelier in

Drottningholm. With big projects we go into partnership with large practices. I reserve the right to design from the first sketches down to the details. They do the working drawings." Does he ever use computers? "I always sketch with pen and paper. I maintain the brain is the best computer, and the only one with feelings."

ARTS BRIEF

Cry the beloved?

GIVEN the rumours about the impending demise of Radio 2 in a new, slimmer BBC, the network's decision to broadcast a "Country Music Week" may go down as one of the zanier suicide notes in history. Radio 2 chiefs clearly feel there is a big audience for a week (October 8-15) of George Strait, Emmylou Harris, Tammy Wynette, Nanci Griffith and all the rest of the Tennessee gang.

The week is launched by the indefatigable Wally Whyton, introducing the Country Music Association Awards from Nashville. It also sees the start of a weekly series called *New Country* presented by Nick Barradough. "My mission in life," says Barradough, "is to make country music so hip that my wife stops clucking like a chicken whenever she hears a country song." The sceptics may wonder whether saturation coverage on Radio 2 is the most obvious way of fulfilling this ambition.

Name game

THE Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields may not quite

have the longest name in the orchestral world, but it certainly has one of the most famous. Much heart-searching, then, must have accompanied its decision to change its name, thanks to sponsorship from a Canadian telephone company, Northern Telecom. Patronage worth £125,000 is paying for a new corporate image: it involves the last six words of its name being all but dropped in its new logo. The sponsorship also gives the orchestra a composer-in-residence for three years, plus a series of colour tube posters designed by the Mexican artist, Leonard Niernman.

Last chance...

IN CLAIRE DOWIE'S *Death and Dancing* both the crooked characters are named Max, and when first seen (in a grey disco) they look pretty well identical. But one, Dowie herself, is a woman — to the initial dismay of the other, Mark Pinkosh.

Their relationship is a dashing variant on the familiar story of girl meets boy, boy leaves girl, boy searches for girl. A play of wit and appealing devilry. The last performance is at BAC, Battersea (071-223 2223) on Sunday; a national tour starts at Aldershot on September 24.



Angela Carter: for her, goodness and truth were not discovered, but remembered

TELEVISION

Books barely furnish a room

Once upon a time, writers left their testaments on paper. Angela Carter, apparently wanted last night's *Omnibus* (BBC 1), which was made shortly before she died in February this year aged only 52, to be her memorial. Her preference for images on film over the written word, even in so personal a document, was quite in character.

She was this country's fairy godmother of magic realism, never a purely literary movement, and an author of several successful screenplays, including *The Company of Wolves*. Hers was a cinematic imagination, and central to it was her belief that stars such as Louise Brooks or Marlene Dietrich had been completely invented personalities, even faces.

Carter's literary life revolved around this problematic, self-created identity. The *Omnibus* programme, Angela Carter's *Mysterious Room*, returned repeatedly (and, it must be said, rather tiresomely) to the image of a room, full of wonderful objects, from which we are perpetually excluded and which we spend all our time trying to remember. This metaphor, which seems to have been important to her, was reminiscent both of the Garden of Eden and of Plato's cave: goodness and truth are not discovered, but remembered.

The programme concentrated on her childhood and youth. It was an idealised

portrait: though her brother was also interviewed, he told us only that Angela had been a very fat adolescent, who had suddenly transformed herself into a sylph. We learned nothing about their family except the private world which Angela invented for herself, in which clocks never told the right time and her journalist father took her to the sumptuous art deco picture palace in Balham.

Everything about Angela's youth appeared to be a portent. Her mother was told she was pregnant on the day war was declared. Her lack of makeup and her fishnet stockings were insisted on by her mother when she began her first job — but fashions had changed, and by the late Fifties this was the get-up of a demi-mondaine. Her life consisted of a sequence of metamorphoses.

Once the lovely butterfly of her girlhood had acquired the "long antennae of the intellec-

tual", once Angela Carter had become "Angela Carter", however, "everything" became political. She even managed to make something sinister out of the gentrification of Balham, delivering this cocktail-curdling warning: "Double parking your Porsche" — so people in Balham still preserve these ancient customs? — "is a political act".

She also became rather a fierce literary critic. Her *obituary* on Shakespeare — "a lovable man, but I'm afraid not very clever" — left one eager for more, perhaps on her contemporaries and rivals; but instead the film doubled back on itself, with more mystical stuff about the search for knowledge and truth being really an attempt to return to the time before one was born.

Mumbo jumbo or magic? It depends whether you respond to her insistent appeal to the submerged adolescent in all of us. Carter had become very grand by the end of her life, a sublimation of the narcissism which was evidently a part of her invented personality from the beginning. In her work, though, she retained an authentic awe in the presence of nature, a childlike fascination with the infinite mutability of the visible world. Her own world was different: she refused, she said, to allow her characters any autonomy: a writer who could not keep control of her creations should be ashamed of herself.

DANIEL JOHNSON

RADIO REVIEW

Myth sounding like a hit

After Freud had startled the world with his description of the Oedipus complex, there was a spate of new translations of Sophocles' play about the doomed king. W.B. Yeats began one in 1904 and tinkered with it for over 25 years — but he was satisfied with it in the end, and declared that he had produced a "plain man's Oedipus".

This was the translation that John Theophrastus used in his Sunday Play, *King Oedipus* on Radio 3. It has a slight bloom of Shakespeareans, but it is mostly in straightforward, robust English. Gilbert Murray, who himself wrote a rather woolly verse translation in 1911, said that the great scene where Queen Jocasta innocently reveals the fatal truth to her husband-and-son is like Ibsen. That was the mode in which Theophrastus cast his production.

Dorothy Tutin as Jocasta provided the outstanding performance of the evening. The moment when she in turn realises that the prophecy is true — Oedipus is her abandoned child — and rushes out to kill herself, was the emotional high point of the play. Robert Lindsay (leaping the *Smith* to King Oedipus) gave us a dignified, stubborn hero, though I thought his determinedly measured response to some of the revelations was just a bit too flat.

Paul Daneman made an excellent contrast as Creon, Oedipus's brother-in-law, relaxed, even jocular as he brushed aside the king's suspicious accusations of treachery. His performance pointed up Oedipus's terrible isolation. Only Peter Vaughan as Tiresias seemed to have misjudged his tone of voice. It was in the spirit of the production to make him more of a querulous old man than a soothsayer, but he ended up sounding like a stray from *Dad's Army*.

Gilbert Murray thought that the sophisticated Sophocles did not himself consider

insect so serious, and that for all the psychological realism of the play its author was consciously evoking a primitive era of Greek history. That aspect of the drama was brought out by Christos Pittas's haunting music, which marvellously conjured up the frightening atmosphere of Thebes, this city "stumbling towards death" with its wailing chorus in the streets.

Over on Radio 4, another great city was getting an airing in the first part of a

dramatisation of Balzac's novel *Père Goriot*. But there was not much sense of the atmosphere of Balzac's Paris here. It is such a teeming novel that it has to be stripped down to the barest bones to make a radio play. However the adapter, David Hopkins, made a lucid job of it, with Stephen Fry narrating rather cosily, and Douglas Hodge winning our sympathy as the young Rastignac.

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Come home, Jacopo Bassano

Philip Rylands goes into the Italian countryside to see a 400th-anniversary exhibition of a late Venetian painter

In the National Gallery in London, Christ kneels in a bleached purple robe, his beautiful face looking rather absent-mindedly at a large white cloth held before him by St Veronica, who gazes back with an open-mouthed look of expectancy. All around there are horsemen, soldiers and weeping women. In the far distance, a hump-backed mountain, like a great solitary Skiddaw, is silhouetted blue against a storm-threatened sunset. The mountain is a portrait of the Monte del Grappa, which looms over the little north Italian town of Bassano, home of that ferocious Italian liqueur which is sold in *osterie* near its famous bridge over the Brenta.

It is one of the oddities of Flemish and Italian Renaissance paintings that religious scenes are set in local landscapes — nannies on plateaux high above Umbria, baptisms in tributaries of the Adige, dying BVMs with a view through the window to Mantua. Jacopo Bassano, who painted the *Way of Calvary* described above, is so completely identified with the little town whose name he took, and where he lived for most of his life, that the exhibition which was inaugurated there last week by Giovanni Spadolini, president of the Italian Senate, amounts as much to a celebration of Bassano as of its eponymous Jacopo.

Jacopo Bassano died 400 years ago on February 13, aged 82. In the Venetian Cinquecento Olympics, he gets the bronze medal, trailing behind Titian (gold), Tintoretto and Veronese (joint silver). He was given some prominence in the "Genius of Venice" exhibition in 1983 at the Royal Academy, and it was on this occasion that two museum directors independently conceived the idea of a commemorative exhibition for 1992. Paolo Marini of the Museo Civico, Bassano, and Edmund Pillsbury of the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Forces were eventually joined, and the present exhibition — the first since 1957 — takes place now in Bassano and later in Texas.

Bassano has always been most widely known for his hybrid Bible and farmyard scenes. From the mid-1560s onwards, Jacopo, and the workshop populated by his sons, produced large numbers of these paintings veiled as, for example, *The Adoration of the Shepherds*, or *The Parable of the Sower*. However, these rather oppressive pastorals (the light is always crepuscular, and the realism is offset by artificial postures and figure types left over from the language of Mannerism) can pall. They are a mere by-product of Jacopo's varied career, in which he

Painted many works of astounding beauty. He started out in his father's workshop in Bassano. But his swift apprehension of the mature art of Titian, as well as of Emilian and Roman Mannerism, hurried him into the small band of the best painters of the Venetian Cinquecento.

In 1533 he went to Venice, then dominated by the rival geniuses of Titian and Pordenone. The most prolific workshop was that of Bonifacio de Piani, and there Jacopo found work. A provincial taste for realism gradually came to be modified by a cosmopolitan stylisation — the aristocratic women, androgynous men, fluid limbs, acid colours, and sophisticated drawing associated with Mannerism.

Two altarpieces, side by side in the exhibition, dramatise this. A stocky, muscular St Jerome, a peasant-like St Francis, a plain-featured St Anne with a chubby infant Virgin in the *St Anne Enthroned with Saints* typify his early work, influenced by the coarser style of Pordenone or Bonifacio. The piece might be a *tableau vivant* from some rustic festival. A year later, a *Madonna and Child with St Martin and Anthony* Abbot is identical in composition, but looks instead like a court masque.

The delicate-featured Madonna comes from Parmigianino's etchings. Radiant lights, quite different from his former rather dead light, play across the folds of St Martin's robes, the finely chiselled small heads, the slender fingers, and the rarefied, ecstatic expressions belong to the *climac* of Mannerism.

The extent to which Venice could be said to have had a Mannerist phase was the subject of an exhibition at the Doge's Palace a few years ago. What we gain from Jacopo Bassano's art is both a revelation and a recognition — the revelation of a Venetian artist who, for two decades, produced exquisite, Mannerist works of art, and a fresh recognition of the beauties of which this style was capable. The National Gallery's *Way of Calvary* is a perfect example. Back in Bassano, with the joy of a new-found freedom, Jacopo experimented in subsequent years with paintings in which artifice is uppermost — he streamlines Mannerist forms in strange dreamlike paintings of the utmost virtuosity. A *Way of Calvary* from Budapest, a *Beheading of St John the Baptist* from Copenhagen, and a *Lazarus and Dives* from Cleveland, rank high in Mannerist production anywhere in Italy.



Mannerist masterpiece: Bassano's *Way of Calvary*, with the Monte del Grappa in the background

An altarpiece of 1561, the *Crucifixion with Salus* (Treviso, Museo Civico) terminates Jacopo's Mannerist phase and marks the return to normality of posture, and realism of light and texture. Jacopo's debt here was above all to Titian. The repertoire of feeling and gesture, the variety of human response (contemplative, impassioned, intellectual), the changing postures and controlled asymmetry, together with a high finish of surface and light effects, make this one of the absolute masterpieces of the late Italian Renaissance.

Like many of the works in the exhibition, the *Crucifixion* has been cleaned for the occasion. It is thus possible for the first time to perceive the blue-veined muscularity of Jerome's titanic back, the trembling softness of Mary Magdalene's tearful gaze, the rich hues of red, blue and

green, or the noble but real physique of Jesus Christ. Only the absurdly windswept loincloth survives as a caprice of Mannerist decorativeness.

It used to be assumed that the old Jacopo, with failing eyesight, retired from his trade around 1580, soon after completing his great altarpiece of *St Martin and the Beggar* (Museo Civico, Bassano). Thanks however to some revisionist art history in the 1960s, conducted by the two living experts on Jacopo Bassano, Alessandro Ballarin and W Roger Reareck, we now have a corpus of paintings representing his *ultima maniera* in the 1580s. Realism yields to the loose brushstroke; a painterliness of incredible mastery. The dimmed light of these paintings might follow from Jacopo's dimmed eyesight, were it not that this palette was shared by all Venetian painters of

the time, including Titian, who had died in 1576 but whose unfinished paintings may have promoted this precocious 'impressionism'.

The town of Bassano, with its gourmet shops and its Ponte Vecchio attributed to Palladio, is worth visiting at all seasons. But the homage to its most famous son is a marvellous new incentive. The installation of the exhibition, with a chest-high dado to distance the crowds, is intelligently designed to enable the visitor to see the works comfortably, and to follow the extraordinary, even mercurial changes in Jacopo's art.

● Jacopo Bassano, *Museo Civico, Bassano, Italy*, until December 5, 1992, and *Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas*, January 23-April 25, 1993.

Philip Rylands is director of the Peggy Guggenheim museum in Venice.

Waterloo revisited

David Bartial on the Abba revival — and what they are all doing now

Abba, the glittery Swedish pop group which dazzled and delighted millions of fans worldwide during the 1970s, is back. No. Björn, Benny, Agnetha and Frida aren't ready to jump into their old flared velvet pants and strike up a rousing chorus of "Dancing Queen". But their melodic polished music and flamboyant style has attracted a host of imitators and new fans who were toddlers when Abba first raged.

No one has done more to bring Abba to centre-stage in the 1990s than the modern pop group Erasure. Englishmen Vince Clarke and Andy Bell, who in their live act dress fetchingly as Abba girls Agnetha and Frida, topped UK charts for five weeks in spring with their extended-play single "Abba-esque", which contains four of the Swedes' biggest hits.

"Erasure helped a new generation to discover the group, and a lot of old fans have come out of the closet and admitted they liked their music all along," says Steve Blame, an MTV disc jockey. With 180 million records sold, more than a few hard rock fans must have been shuffling out of record shops for years with Abba albums concealed in brown paper wrappers. And the soft rock success saga isn't over yet. Under the guidance of the original Abba engineer Michael B. Tretow, a digitally re-mastered collection of the best 19 Abba tunes will be released on September 21.

It is now ten years since Abba's last song "The Day Before You Came" was released, and 18 years since the group won the Eurovision Song Contest at Brighton with "Waterloo". Partly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of Abba's demise, a chorus of modern Swedish artists has produced an album of new versions of Abba hits. The Australian group Björn Again also sings and imitates Abba. But the most exotic of all the Abba

spin-offs are probably Pakistani sisters Salma and Sabina, who sing Abba favourites in Hindi.

Despite the flurry of enthusiasm, a reunion of the now middle-aged performers is unlikely. All of the original Abba members are now doing very well on their own. Agnetha Fältskog, 42, produced a record of children's music and two solo albums after her career with Abba but has now deliberately sought a life with her two teenage children far from the reach of autograph hounds and newspaper reporters.

Björn Ulvæus, 47, is currently helping former Abba mate Benny Andersson, 45, produce a new musical about Swedes who emigrated to America during the last century.

Benny Andersson also wrote the music for Chess and, going back to his folk music roots, made two albums with a



Abba: when they were together

group of Swedish accordionists.

Annafrid (Frida) Lyngstad, who heads an environmental group in Sweden, figured prominently in gossip columns recently when she married her long-time boyfriend Russo Reuss, an Italian prince. The light-hearted disco era which Abba helped usher out may be over, but the Abba fairytale lives on.

The Times, with United Airlines, offers readers Gateway to the USA

Freedom of the USA and a chance to fly there free

The third day of three exclusive offers to readers

This week *The Times* invites readers to apply for a mystery pair of return East Coast US domestic flight travel certificates, which offer every reader the exclusive opportunity to fly free with United Airlines in Gateway to the USA.

From the high peaks of the Colorado Rockies to the beaches of Hawaii, from the bustle of New York City to the soul of New Orleans, you will be able to experience the very best of the USA with United Airlines.

Your free pair of flight certificates will be valid for one route and selected at random from a range of destinations that would take you from any one of the United Airlines East Coast gateways of New York (Newark), Washington or Chicago (via New York-JFK) to either Orlando, Miami, New Orleans, Denver or Phoenix.

Your certificates will entitle you to two free Economy Class return flights on the specified route when you purchase your connecting United Airlines transatlantic flights to the relevant gateway and fly before January 31, 1993. These can be purchased at the most preferential rate available through any IATA travel agent and are not restricted to any particular class.

Full details of how to apply for your free mystery tickets will appear in this Saturday. You can even upgrade your transatlantic flights by taking advantage of our Gateway to the USA free seat class upgrade offer.



FREE SEAT CLASS UPGRADES

Readers of *The Times* who want to travel to the USA before February 1993 have a unique opportunity to cross the Atlantic in luxury with two free United Airlines seat class upgrades. You can choose to upgrade either from Full Fare Economy to *Connaisseur Class*, or from *Connaisseur Class* to *First Class*, with savings of up to £2,000 at current prices.

Your two upgrade certificates can be used either for two people flying one way or for one person there and back on any direct United Airlines flights across the Atlantic. You will receive two single direct flight upgrade certificates.

One certificate can be used per person for one seat upgrade on either outbound or inbound flights.

Your upgrades are valid on any direct United Airlines transatlantic direct flight via either coast before February 1993.

To take advantage of this exclusive offer, simply collect the 12 special tokens that will be printed in *The Times* from Monday to Saturday for the next two weeks and book your transatlantic flight with United Airlines before February 1993. You will find your third token at the foot of this page. Details on claiming two free upgrades will appear in *The Times* on Saturday, September 26.

Another teasing tester

The first of our two Gateway to the USA weekly competitions offers you the chance to win one of 30 pairs of transatlantic return tickets to the United Airlines US destination of your choice, including five first prizes of two seats in *Connaisseur Class*. These could take you to any one of the United Airlines US destinations within the 50 states.

HOW TO ENTER Each day this week we will set you a different brain-teaser constructed around a hypothetical United Airlines traveller. Make a careful note of all your answers throughout the week so that you can complete the competition entry form that will be printed in *The Times* this Saturday, September 19, along with full entry details.

QUESTION 3 A passenger boards a United Airlines 747, Flight UA923, at Heathrow Airport that takes off for Washington at 13.45

(assume GMT) landing on schedule at 17.05 local time. After 53 minutes at Washington, he takes off for Detroit landing 1 hour and 27 minutes later and checks into his hotel 45 minutes after landing. Twelve hours later, he starts the first of three meetings lasting precisely 1 hour and 27 minutes, 47 minutes, and 2 hours and 10 minutes respectively.

After a further 1 hour and 45 minutes, he takes off for Kansas City (via Chicago) where he lands 3 hours and 20 minutes later. Fifty-six minutes after landing he enters his brother-in-law's home and glances at the clock. What time does it read to the nearest minute?

(Chicago and Kansas City are 9 hours behind GMT; Washington and Detroit 5 hours behind. Please use the 24-hour clock and assume all actions are continuous.)

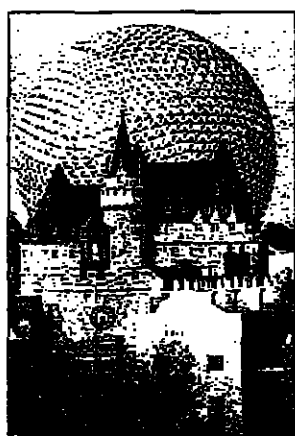
UNITED AIRLINES

Dream world

ORLANDO is one of the main gateways to Florida, and a major airport for United Airlines. There are really two Floridas — the tourist world of beaches and theme parks, and the "real" Florida of the Everglades and the state parks.

Orlando's Walt Disney World has three theme-parks. The Magic Kingdom celebrates Disney, with a Disney Character Hit Parade every day. The Epcot Centre has two themes: the wonders of technology, including the 180ft-high geosphere of Spaceship Earth, and the harmony of nations with presentations of the life (and food) of many countries. The Disney-MGM Studios Theme Park takes you into Hollywood history.

You will also find the Sea World theme park, with its dolphins, sting-rays and water-skiing spectacles, and Universal Studios, the biggest



Geosphere: Spaceship earth

film and television studio outside Hollywood. Further southwest are the swampy Everglades, with guided tours of the birds and alligators, as well as hikes and canoeing. Over on the east side are Miami and its beaches. There are continuous street shows and cruises around the bay, best of all at sunset.

Southernmost of all is the string of islands called the Florida Keys, from which glass-bottomed boats will take you out to see exotic fish and coral and sunken wrecks.

Key West is different: night spots and the life of pleasure, with memories of Spanish fleets in the bays and Ernest Hemingway in the bars.

FESTIVAL: BERLINER FESTWOCHEN

Welcome to Prague



A world of nightmarish comedy: Wolfgang Schöne and Peter Matić in *Das Schloss*

The Berliner Festwochen festival, which this year focuses on Prague, got off to a resounding start with Aribert Reimann's opera *Das Schloss* (The Castle) based on Kafka's novel and specially commissioned by the Berliner Festwochen and the Deutsche Oper.

Born in Berlin in 1936, Reimann has successfully transformed a number of plays into operas and his *Learn*, composed in 1978, is viewed by many German critics as one of the great operas of the century, ranking alongside Berg's *Wozzeck* and Zimmermann's *Soldaten*.

Reimann's achievement in *Das Schloss* is to have created a thoroughly original work while finding a common voice with Kafka, so that there is never a sense of disjunction between the writer and the composer. Each character has been given both an individual singing style and a particular musical accompaniment. Thus, Wolfgang Schöne, the baritone who sings the part of K, is often accompanied by the double bass, while other characters are marked, say, by sounds of glockenspiel and xylophone.

A huge cylinder takes up most of the stage, rotating with each scene to reveal a village inn, municipal offices or K's rented room. The Kafkaesque

world created by director Willy Decker and designer Wolfgang Gussmann is both nightmarish and amusing, peopled by comic grotesques such as K's assistants, Jeremiah and Arthur, a classic comic duo in the tradition of Laurel and Hardy or Beckett's Vladimir and Estragon. Reimann introduces a note of pathos which is not always present in the novel and the final scene in which K stands in a telephone box making one last, doomed attempt at human contact, is exceptionally poignant.

Václav Havel, the Czech president, came to Berlin last week to see a performance of a play he wrote in 1972, a version of the *The Beggar's Opera* in a production by the Cínoherní klub. As one of the most daring political theatres in Prague during the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Cínoherní klub was a frequent target for state repression and many of its leading figures were forced to move abroad during the 1970s, including Jiri Menzel, who directed this new production of Havel's play.

Just as Bertolt Brecht found a contemporary resonance in John Gay's 18th-century play when he wrote *The Threepenny Opera*, Havel uses this tale of police and thieves in the London underworld to explore

the theme which underlies all his work: the crisis in human relationships. For Havel, the central question is "Who serves whom?", and he ends the play with the words of a corrupt magistrate who has taken control of both police and criminals: "He who knows not whom he serves, serves best."

Great expectations awaited this production on its arrival in Berlin and it was well received, despite a lack of excitement in the direction and a great deal of mannered acting and old-fashioned clanking of props.

Although the orchestral concerns boasting big names such as Claudio Abbado and Riccardo Muti have been sold out, most of the events at this year's Festwochen have been poorly attended, even though the standard of work on offer is high. The organisers blame the increased competition for audiences in Berlin, but at a time when money is in shorter supply than before, these low box office returns could spell the end for this festival, which has been a major fixture in Berlin's cultural calendar for 42 years.

DENIS STAUNTON

● The Berliner Festwochen continues until September 27. The next performance of *Das Schloss* is at the Deutsche Oper on October 4.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

● EISENSTADT: The Haydn Festival continues this month in the house where the composer lived and worked for 40 years: the Esterházy Palace in Eisenstadt, Austria. Esterházy Palace, Eisenstadt, Austria (010 4326 8261 866).

● GENEVA: Geneva's Grand Théâtre stages a new production of Gustave Charpentier's opera *Louise*. Although *Louise* was very successful when it was first produced in 1900, its sequel *Julien* failed. Mary Mills plays Louise, Maureen Forrester, the mother, Gregory Kunde, Julien, and Jean-Philippe Courty, the father. André Jordan conducts. Le Grand Théâtre de Genève, Place Neuve (010 4122 212 311). September 18, 21, 24, 27.

● LINZ: The International Bruckner Festival continues until October 4. Luciano Berio conducts his vocal ensemble Electric Phoenix (October 2). Brigitte Fassbaender gives a recital of works by Schreker, Bruckner, Brahms and Dvořák (September 24). Kathryn Harries and Wolfgang Schmidt perform in Wagner's opera *Der Fliegende Holländer* (September 20); and Marek Janowski conducts the Philharmonie Radio Orchestra of France (September 26, 27). Brucknerhaus, Untere Donaulände 7, Postfach 57, A-4010 Linz (010 43 732 275 230).

● NANTES: Nantes Opera will be staging Gasparo Spontini's rarely performed opera *La Vestale* next month. The opera was one of the first to reflect the taste of the Napoleonic era for operas with sumptuous production and plots with historical and political significance. The conductor is Giuliano Carella. L'Opéra de Nantes, 1 rue Mollière (010 33 4041 9060). October 7, 9, 11.

● PARIS: The Baroque Festival takes place in and around the Palace of Versailles. In the Opéra Royal, performances of Gluck's *Armide* with the Orchestra and Choir of Musiciens du Louvre (September 17, 19, 20); and Rameau's *Castor et Pollux* by Les Arts Florissants (September 23). Festival Baroque de Versailles, Château de Versailles. (010 331 3084 7627). Until October 17.



Streetwise in any of six languages: Iva Pekárková says cab driving in New York is delightful — each customer has the potential to become an encounter, or a new story

A cabbie on the road to freedom

Iva Pekárková fled Prague carrying her novel in her head. Now her journey has taken her to the streets of New York. Kate Muir reports

Many people might consider it strange, if not downright irresponsible, that an intelligent woman of tender years should spend her nights driving a yellow cab in New York. Taxi drivers do not last long in this city — 33 were murdered in their cabs last year. The driver of taxi 3Y50 has been robbed both at gunpoint and knife-point. She loves her job.

For a dollar, Iva Pekárková will sell you "The Book of Iva", an eight-page pamphlet in which the 29-year-old cabbie answers the questions most frequently asked by passengers: "My name is Iva, pronounced 'Ee-va' not 'Eye-va'. I come from Czechoslovakia and I am Czech, not Czechoslovak and not Czech." Before driving for two years, she was also "a mediocre social worker in the South Bronx, a lousy waitress, and a catastrophic bartender. I think I'm a pretty decent cabbie."

She is now also an author. *Truck Stop Rainbows*, a Kerouac-style Czech road novel, is published in America this month by New York's swankiest literary publishers, Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

The economic consequences of this momentous event are that Ms Pekárková can now cut her driving down to three 5pm-to-5am shifts a week instead of five. A good night nets \$90 (£46) once the fee is paid to her "Russian mafioso" cab company. A bad one nets \$45.

Despite that, she does not wish to give up work which she considers delightful. Each customer has the potential to become an encounter, or a new story. The pamphlet lists the other advantages: "I get up at 1pm. I can take a day off any time I feel like it. I know the city inside and out — and therefore it's hard not to love it. I've learned a lot about other cabdrivers' lives and desires, and I know how to say 'motherf---er' in 16 languages."

As well as that, as the mainstay of the cabbie's vocabulary, Ms Pekárková can also speak six languages — seven, if she now counts Serbo-Croat as two — well enough to hold a conversation. Her extensive American vocabulary includes, tonight, the word "discombobulate". These language skills allowed her to hitchhike her way out of Czechoslovakia in 1985, when it was still a communist country "devoted to the eradication of rainbows", as she describes it in her book.

Times Square, that shrine to neon capitalism, could not be further from her past. The taxi bowls and bounces through the post-theatre traffic. Ms Pekárková points out that she is not at her best when talking and driving at once. Between a series of dramatic near-misses, she explains how she carried *Truck Stop Rainbows* away from Czechoslovakia half-written in her head, fearing that the manuscript would be confiscated. She put it on paper in a concentrated burst of about ten weeks when she was relocated as a refugee to Boston.

The story is of a 25-year-old photographer who rebels against the communist repression, the dreary anonymous housing complexes and the industrial pollution of Prague. She spends her time in escapism hitchhiking across the country on the Northern Road, where she finds the serendipity she seeks in casual affairs with nameless truckers and adventures on the road. For a time, to help an increasingly ill friend, her affairs merge into prostitution, the only easy source of hard currency.

The same grey uniformity frustrated Ms Pekárková in real life. Because her parents did not have a "clean" political record, she stood no chance of studying popular subjects such as literature at university. Instead, she took microbiology. "At least that was socialised-proof. You can't propagate germs. A year before graduation, she jettisoned her degree in favour of the freedom to write abroad."

Although the book is set in the late 1980s, it is the document of a lost age: "We were nothing but serial numbers. Precisely catalogued, mass-produced serifs in the machinery of a single, enormous filthy factory for the defiling of the sky and the homogenisation of rainbows."

The new, liberated Prague does not meet entirely with her approval. The downtown part of the city has been so commercialised, it reminds her of the tackiness of Coney Island. Tourists, on hearing of her roots, tell her how cheap Prague is, at 50 cents for a beer, not realising the locals still find it hard enough paying ten cents for one. "It's getting to be the Bangkok of Europe — a place to go for cheap sex."

The seedier side of Western capitalism is right in front of her nose every night. She knows which homeless people will be on which corners in the small hours, and has regular conversations with them. Having moved 11 times in her four years in the city, she knows the free housing market is also expensive. Indeed, she only acquired her present studio flat on the Upper East Side because a Czech friend was pursuing all the way to the States by his overbearing mother. "She just loves him too much, and chases him round the globe." He was forced to become a sailor to escape.

Her own mother died when she was aged 17, and she does not have much in common with her father. As an only child, she had few ties in Prague, and the West beckoned ever-brighter. "In Czechoslovakia my book has a naked angel on the cover, because it was done by a company that usually publishes more downmarket stuff. My father thinks it's shocking and he hasn't read it," she says, shrugging. "Over there, I got \$200 and a couple of beers for the rights to it. That's how business gets done there now."

The word beer puts her in mind of one, and she stops to continue the rest of the conversation in safety at the

Gulf bar on the West Side highway. It has fairy lights on the windows and an old Gulf petrol sign. At the bar there is a fat man with a T-shirt which says: "Corn fed. Inbred. Brain Dead." Ms Pekárková takes her late-night breaks here.

Rough streets and unsavoury saloons hold no fears for her. "I've lived for a year in an Austrian refugee camp," she says, as though brandishing a badge of honour. "It was infamous. We were supposed to have a men's house, a women's house and a family house, but of course it didn't work out. I shared a room with eight girls — and that meant five of their boyfriends too, and whoever else came in. After a while, I left because I felt safer on the road."

Whether it is in a taxi, or the cab of a European truck, Ms Pekárková is only comfortable when she is on the move. She decided hitchhiking was her best method of escape from communism, and managed, after two years of bureaucracy, to get a visa which allowed her to Yugoslavia. As soon as she tried to sneak over the Austrian border, she was thrown into jail. "They kept me among the border screws for two days," she says, screwing up her face. The police took her papers and put her on a train back home through Hungary, but she got off at the first stop and started hitchhiking to the Italian border instead.

"An English truck driver stopped — he had been a sailor and had tattoos all over the place and a ring in his ear to signify he'd crossed the equator. I told him I wanted to get to Italy, but I didn't have a passport, so he took me to a hill a few kilometres from the border, pointed me in the right direction and gave me a map. He waited with me until it got dark, and then said he'd meet me again at

the other side. And he was there. He said: 'Welcome to the free world', and I was crying like hell. I didn't know where to go. I didn't know about the refugee camps, so I went to Venice."

She dodged the machine guns of border posts only to find herself faced by handguns in her new occupation. Although her taxicab has a thick perspex partition between the passenger's seats and the driver, she forgot to lock her door one day when two men got in. They directed her to a deserted street, and one got out, opened her door, and pointed a gun at her stomach.

She remembers his words precisely. "He said: 'White Mama, give me all you money or I'll blow you brains out'. His grasp of anatomy wasn't good, since he was aiming at my stomach. I gave him the money bag I always wear, and it was all over within 30 seconds. Afterwards, I thought it was very professionally done."

The day before this interview, she had put herself at risk again, picking up what she thought was a single man in a doggy area of Harlem. But when she stopped, six men tried to

squash into the cab. She was about to tell them to get out, when she thought better of it and took them 20 blocks for free.

Ms Pekárková is blessed with an instinct for survival, and an ability to tell herself her way out of almost anything. She acknowledges she has used up a number of lives, and she may not have so many left. "You've got to be careful you don't become too toughened by it all," she says, shifting another Dixie beer. But her soft side remains in her writing, and it turns out, when she talks about her occasional loves. There is not room here to go into her two-year Muslim marriage with a Pakistani New Yorker, which ended in divorce when his mother found him a suitable 19-year-old from Bangladesh. Or to discuss her friendship with a photographer in the city. But on her last visit to Prague this summer, she met a Czech man who was unexpectedly wonderful. They phoned and wrote, separated by his refusal to live in Prague, and his ineligibility for an American visa. But he is half French.

A French West African taxi driver is helping Ms Pekárková polish her verbs and vocabulary. She muses on moving to Paris one day. She has to keep travelling until she finds a home.

Too much life on earth

June Goodfield's programme *The Cosmic Joke* gives warning of a future with population out of control

June Goodfield is an unlikely prophet of apocalyptic doom, being in appearance and manner rather more Miss Marple than Malthus, and, indeed, when she was young she vowed always to be cheerful and optimistic in her old age. At 65, however, she fears the world may have called her bluff.

In a little less than her lifetime the earth's population has expanded from two billion to more than five billion. The problems of — and possible solutions to — over-population are the subject of two films Dr Goodfield has made to be shown on BBC 2 over the next two Saturdays titled *The Cosmic Joke*. The title comes from a passage in Steinbeck's *Sweet Thursday*: "Man has solved his problems... The old live on, the young do not die... In a foreseeable future we shall be smothered by our own numbers... It is a cosmic joke. Pre-occupation with survival has set the stage for extinction."

Dr Goodfield made a similar connection when she was researching a book on medical advances which later became an award-winning Channel 4 series, *From the Face of the Earth*. "I became more and more aware that all these medical and health benefits were being purchased at a price and that the price was an explosion in the numbers of human beings."

"It is not only that absolute numbers have grown but that the rate at which they grow is increasing. For every person that dies now three are born."

Dr Goodfield does not speak lightly about the need to have fewer babies. Her delight in children shines through the programmes and her inability to have any herself has been a matter of great sadness. She is also sensitive to the unease many people feel about asking those with least to make the greatest sacrifice.

"If we are looking at this environmentally then the best thing would be to stop the West having children because an American child consumes 400 times the earth's resources more than, for instance, the Ghanaian. But suppose you waved a magic wand and eliminated those one billion, you would not obtain the problem. You would still have five billion doubling in finite periods of time."

"We really have no right to tell other people how many

children to have. But I think we all have the right to choose, and what most women don't have is any choice. If you give them all the information and technology that enables us to make choices and they then say 'sorry but I'm still going to have ten kids', then I have to say 'so be it'."

The programmes took ten months to make and though the schedule and the locations might have taxed a woman half her age — she rode over Java in a microbike and across the Sahara on a camel — Dr Goodfield found her years a positive advantage. "When you get to be of grandmotherly age... you are neither a threat nor a temptation."

In some ways Dr Goodfield epitomises the successful second and third chances in life. Until she was 45 she was an "orthodox academic" with a doctorate in the history of philosophy and science. Then her life fell apart: she miscarried the only baby she ever managed to conceive; her husband, a fellow academic, left her for a student; her brother died. "My life was in shreds. I decided to take a drastic decision to change it all."

She started writing popular science books which, in turn, led to her discovery by television at the age of 57. "It's nonsense to believe because you're past a certain age you can't do this or that. I am very conscious of how privileged I've been but women have tremendous energy and possibility. Life is not over at 40 or 50 or 60. I'd say go for it."



Growing concern: June Goodfield

What would make her die happy, she says, is to be proved wrong about the future. "I'd like to know that we had started to change things, that the coming generations faced difficult problems but not catastrophic ones. Then I'd just be another old lady complaining that *Punch* was not as funny as it used to be."

LIZ GILL

• The Cosmic Joke: BBC2 Sunday September 19, 8pm and Saturday September 26, 7pm.

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According to a survey conducted for last week's *The Times*, 22 million married people in this country about 19 per cent (2.5 million) of women say they would like a different husband and 11 per cent of men think that they have married the wrong woman.

The figures support the fact that more women initiate divorce today, perhaps they also reflect the research showing that unmarried women are on the whole healthier than married women (the reverse is true for men) and the report published this week which suggested that the numbers of happy, healthy people living on their own were increasing.

"It seems that marriage is not actually very good for some women," Gillian Walton, head of training at the London Marriage Guidance Council, says. She believes that recent cultural trends been damaging towards relationships. "People have tended to blame others, like their parents, when something goes wrong. There hasn't been great encouragement for people to take responsibility for themselves."

Christopher Chulow, director of the Tavistock Institute of Marital Studies, believes that the survey reveals over-extended expectations of wedlock. If marriages are to develop then conflict between partners is

Love, honour and hatred

If singles are happier and healthier, why resist unmarried bliss?

inevitable, he maintains. "Hate is as much an aspect of love when you find a difference. There are times when you want your partner to get lost, but that's not terminal."

By choosing not to tackle a tough situation, Mr Chulow feels that couples can throw away what could be a chance to learn not only about each other but about themselves. "If you take the exit route straight away you, rob yourself of that opportunity and may repeat the pattern with someone else," he says, pointing to research from Bristol University which shows that nearly 30 per cent of a sample of divorcees regretted ending their marriages.

Marital counsellors often see recently married young couples whose behaviour and feelings have changed sud-

denly since their wedding day. "The most common problem can be sex. Once married, people can go off it because quite unconsciously they stop being themselves and become their parents. The amount of times they make love can decline dramatically from very frequently to infrequently."

Through their parents, children pick up whether sex is OK within marriage. It is very subtle, they do not actually have to see their parents touching all the time to know whether something is going on or not.

"Everyone yawns when you say communication, but it boils down to that," says Sarah Litvinoff, author of two practical Relate guide books, who advocates a careful airing of grievances. This means have

proper talks, not rows, otherwise the angry person just makes their point and the other feels attacked.

If the washing-up or the clipping of toenails represents tiny niggles now, Ms Litvinoff advises people not to ignore them. "Many people strategically withdraw from them: part of them shuts down towards their partners so that after several years the accumulation leaves the two cut off from each other and with a crisis of major proportions."

Too often couples plough through no-go areas in the name of true intimacy, warns Ms Litvinoff. "People treat each other in a way they wouldn't dream of treating anyone else, saying very damaging things. Is that being intimate or taking advantage of a situation where, because you are bound together, you feel you can say anything?" She advises couples to treat each other as they would a good friend, to act with consideration, respect and love, and that means not saying or doing things at certain times.

She cites the story of two American psychologists who, as an experiment, decided, on the point of divorce, to behave as if they liked one another and were happily married, for a period of three months. By the end of that time they had decided not to get divorced.

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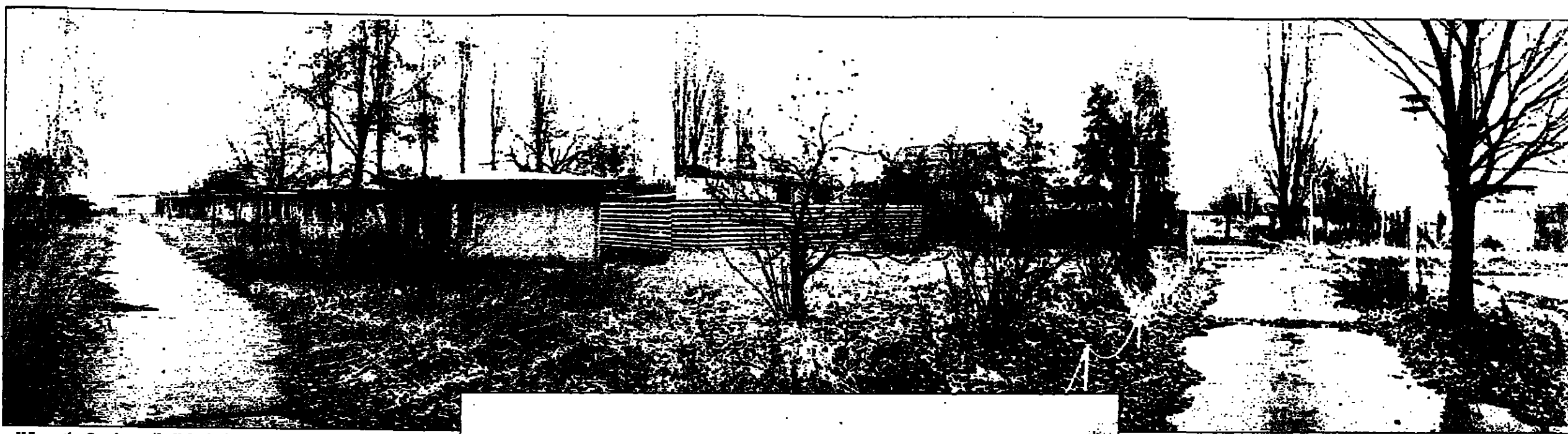
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The British are moving into the capital of the reunited Germany as business rapidly picks up. Rachel Kelly reports

As Britain slumps, Berlin prepares to boom



Where the Stasi once frolicked: site of a new luxury development

The news was "appalling", Sir Brian Hill, the Building Employers Confederation president, said last week. "Awful", added Nigel Chaldecott, the director general of the Building Materials Producers. Any housebuilder or developer will know to what they refer: the latest figures from the environment department that show an 18 per cent fall in new building orders during the last year.

The fall is the worst since the 1974 oil crisis. Total annual output for the UK construction industry, which includes office blocks, as well as homes and schools, was £15 billion, compared to £20 billion spent at the height of the building boom in the 1980s.

As even the memory of that boom fades, British builders are casting round Europe for the next boom city. Until recently, Barcelona was king, thanks to the Olympics. Now Berlin has grabbed the crown.

Berlin's emergence as Europe's construction city reflects its status as the capital of a reunited Germany. The move of the capital from Bonn in the far west of Germany to Berlin in the centre of what was East Germany has made a building site not just of Berlin, but of much of the five states of the former communist regime. The latest federal govern-

ment estimates project total annual construction spending of £60 billion for the next 15 years, which puts British construction, even that of the 1980s, in the shade.

Walter Bau, Germany's third biggest builder, has told possible clients who want him to put up buildings to form a queue, such as the volume of work. Clients will go on a waiting list for projects to start next spring.

Much of the building work is public sector projects such as the redevelopment of the Schönefeld airport, a new underground station at Lehner, east Berlin, and a new railway station. On October 2, Ronald Reagan is booked to lay the cornerstone on the £120 million American Business Centre at the formerCheckpoint Charlie.

Then there are the buildings to house federal government departments, which now have only small outposts in the new capital and will move from Bonn soon, though nobody knows quite when. Suitably grand housing for the civil servants will have to be provided.

Hardly surprising, then, that British developers are already lining up opportunities and scouting for new ones. Godfrey Bradman is applying for planning permission for a 250-acre business park near Schönefeld airport. Heron and



Stanhope are in town. The contractors Bovis and Wimpey have offices in Berlin and Tarmac is nearby in Leipzig.

The architects Nicholas Grimshaw, Arup Associates, Sir Norman Foster & Partners, Richard Rogers Partnership and Conran Roche are all at drawing boards in Berlin. Engineers and chartered surveyors abound.

Typical of the English at work are plans to transform a former holiday camp used by the Stasi. East Germany's disbanded security police agency, into luxury residential homes from swords into timshares, to coin a phrase. The developer is Christopher Allen, like his compatriots hit by the British

slump, and in Germany in search of pastures new. He went there a year ago to investigate opportunities and has teamed up with a young German businessman.

EC Harris, the quantity surveyor company, is managing Mr Allen's project. "There is great demand for residential property in Germany," says Brian Lillcrap of Harris.

The site is near Potsdam, the capital of Brandenburg. As in other regional capitals establishing themselves as new administrative centres, there is demand for new housing.

"Demand is put at 200,000 new housing units," Mr Lillcrap says. "Little of the existing housing stock is of good enough quality."

Many such homes are plagued by asbestos and need to be renovated or rebuilt.

The original holiday camp was built in 1972 around a freshwater lake. Hidden in the middle of the country and screened by poplars, the camp consists of 20 simple bungalows with showers and minimal cooking facilities, and a central dining and recreational block where the Stasi used to be served their meals.

The bungalows slept four with views of the lake. Signs of the life the Stasi once enjoyed still remain: pedalos and wicker chairs that would have once lined the lake shore are neatly stored.

Mr Allen assembled a team of

British architects. Cowell Matthews Wheatley and Conran Roche, which is already based in Berlin; and engineers Waterman International to demolish the existing bungalows and build two, three and five-bedroom homes, all with double garages and modern conveniences.

The £13.8 million scheme has six tennis courts, a tennis club, a nature reserve and a day centre on the seven-hectare (about 2.5 acres) site. The 106 homes will be built in two stages to take advantage of Lake Schläuse, from which the project takes its name.

The architecture will, Mr Lillcrap says, "lean heavily on Tuscan proportions". He adds: "The tiled roofs will be pitched, the stone will be a honey-golden colour and there will be arches." The two-bedroom homes will sell for £165,000, the three-bedroom homes for £220,000, five-bedroom ones for £500,000 (no timeshare on offer) and will be aimed at a predicted influx of civil servants and government officials, as well as second-homeowners.

The site was owned by local families, who were forced to sell their strips of land to the Stasi when it wanted a consolidated block big enough for its plans. The farmers regained their land after the col-

lapse of the Berlin wall, and developers have since successfully negotiated a deal.

That is a success noteworthy in a country where unresolved ownership claims and disputes have prevented much development and enraged entrepreneurs. So far, Mr Allen has yet to crack the planning nut, the second source facing developers.

For public sector projects, delays are endemic while the German government toys between encouraging a broadly neo-classical or a modernist feel to principal sites and wrestles with the complexities of the country's new infrastructure: a new rail, road, and underground routes, and the airport.

To persuade the local community, Mr Allen is offering to build a clinic for the locals in return for planning permission on a larger site than the original Stasi camp, which covered three-and-a-half hectares, known in Britain as "planning gain".

There is some urgency; tax concessions for development in the east run out at the end of 1994. By then, though, perhaps the British construction industry will have recovered sufficiently to provide an alternative to working in Germany, and the likes of Mr Allen will have returned to work on home soil.

For sale, the farm that stayed in one family

A 1903 diary describes the last changes made to a Devon farm

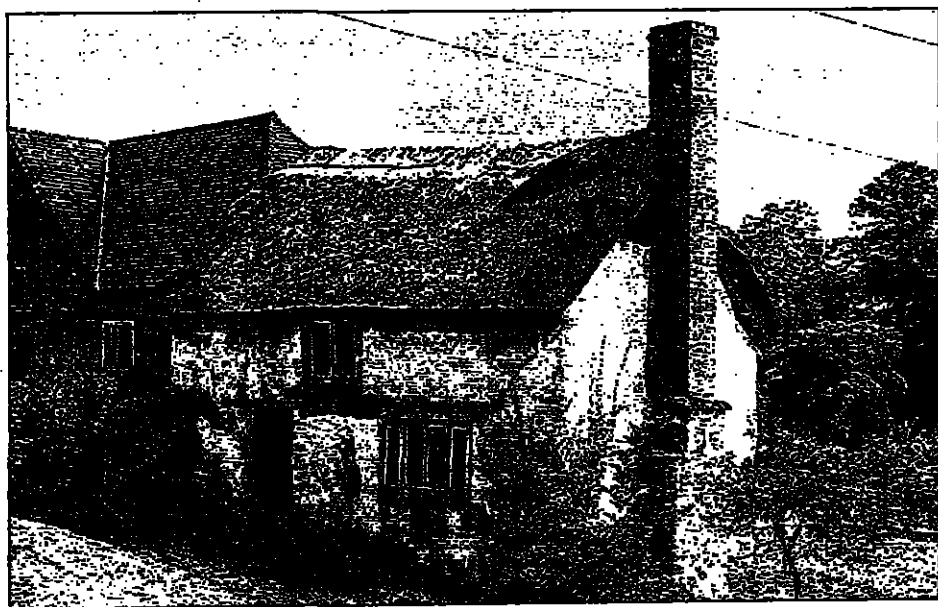
THE DIARY describing work on Tuckett's Farm in Devon is written in slim notebooks in a hand suggesting strength of mind and character allied to the kind of self-assurance that comes with old money, a landed estate and a public school background:

"Sept 9 1903. Selected position for farmhouse. Young apple trees which will be displaced being transplanted. Discussed water supply and alternation to buildings."

"Jan 2 1904. Mr Will Green at Newton Abbot on my way up to town. He absolutely charmed with the picturesque beauty of the site. Walked to Combentighhead to see Penwell the builder and question him about materials: etc. Bricks and limestone come from Torquay. Limestone 1 shilling a load plus 5 shillings for carriage. The art of building cob walls is lost, and would be very costly nowadays, the labour of mixing and the time required for each layer to dry being extreme."

The diarist was Philip Tuckett, barrister, whose family had owned the south Devon property since the early 17th century. The site was on high ground less than half a mile from the south foreshore of the Teign Estuary and two miles from the market town of Newton Abbot.

Will Green, born William Curtis Green, was a personal friend of Tuckett, who was



Rare example of a one-room cob cottage on Tuckett's farm, probably built in the 18th century

then aged 30. In 1904, at 29, he was still two years short of full qualification as an architect. But with ten years of study and practical design experience behind him, he had already developed a style that was later to link his reputation with that of Sir Edwin Lutyens. Romney, his brother, was a poet and a craftsman in the William Morris tradition.

"The buildings" consisted of a late 17th-century cider, or "pound" house of plastered cob (clay, gravel and straw) with a thatched roof and a horse-powered timber and granite cider press, an early 18th-century, one-room cottage, very rare of its kind; a somewhat later, thatched cob stable, its loft ingeniously adapted as a children's playroom; and a "linhay", or open barn, also thought to be 18th-century.

The planned "alterations" concerned not so much the existing buildings as addi-

tions: a new thatched barn of local sandstone and a thatched, 30ft-deep "well-house" as a rain-water cistern. "Sept 19 1904. Found the house well advanced, the drains laid, the water trough fixed in the yard, the pound fenced."

"October 28 1904. Down to Newton with Will Green by early train. Drove out to Combentighhead to see Penwell the builder and question him about materials: etc. Bricks and limestone come from Torquay. Limestone 1 shilling a load plus 5 shillings for carriage. The art of building cob walls is lost, and would be very costly nowadays, the labour of mixing and the time required for each layer to dry being extreme."

Listed Grade II*, the Tuckett's Farm buildings are basically as they were when the present owner's grandfather and Curtis Green unpacked the crockery and furniture that Romney Green had designed. In the pound house, the timber components of the cider press are in disarray, the iron wheels of an ancient trolley are the worse for a century or two of rust, and a long-abandoned, 20th-century bicycle itself looks well

advanced towards archaeological significance. In the cob stable, a cart that has not taken the road since anyone can remember looks as if it might do so again with no mechanical problems.

In the loft, among the timber climbing devices and a cider barrel play chute, and wooden dolls prams and cradles, the century-old hessian hammock alone is in obvious need of repair.

Apple trees - Cornish Guilflower, Fair Maid of Taunton, Peasegood Nonsuch - have come and gone, but Blenheim Orange, Ribston Pippin, Adams Pearmain and Cox's Superb still flourish and a lofty mulberry, though swathed in clematis, is heavy with luscious fruit. The four-ton granite water trough is where it has always been.

Owls still hunt, there are bats in the 17th-century cottage and first editions of James Fennimore Cooper, Jack London and William Le Queux gather what little dust there is in one of the bedrooms.

Are the books and the Romney Green furniture included at the asking price of £250,000 for the 75-acre time warp (5 bed; 3 rec; 2 bath; kit; dairy. "With scope for modernisation and improvement"? "Well," says the present Philip Tuckett, wistfully. "That depends a lot on what sort of a buyer it is. Now if the Landmark Trust..."

NIGEL BUXTON



A "linhay" or open barn, thought to be 18th-century

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23

DOWN

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- 2 Ointment (7)
- 3 Showily gesturing (4,1,8)
- 4 Coolly (6)
- 5 Final family member (4,2,3,4)
- 6 Scoundrel (5)
- 7 Uncovered (7)
- 12 Yale partner (7)
- 14 Get going again (7)
- 15 Suggested (6)
- 17 Wave top (5)
- 19 Wanting (5)

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15 Jekyll and Hyde 16
Patriarch 21 Pain 22 Stance 23

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BBC1

- 6.00 Ceefax** (61622) **6.30 BBC Breakfast News** (78955719)
9.05 Perfect Strangers. American comedy series (i) (6336974)
9.30 Liberal Democrats Conference 92. Live coverage of the third day's proceedings at Harrogate. On the agenda are the privatisation of British Rail and British Coal and the debate on Britain in Europe. Coverage continues at 10.35 (37429)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (548239) **10.05 Playdays**. For the very young (s) (6423177) **10.25 Barney** (i) (4541326)
10.35 Liberal Democrats Conference 92. Further live coverage from Harrogate. Includes News (Ceefax) and weather at 11.00 and 12.00 (82169351) **12.55 Regional News and weather** (12364390)
1.00 One O'Clock News. (Ceefax) Weather (11500)
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (43142061) **1.50 Eldorado** (i). (Ceefax) (s) (4583448)
2.20 Hawaii Five-O. Hawaii-based American police drama series starring Jack Lord and James MacArthur (5396448) **3.10 Pot Black**. Timeframe. Pot-against-the-clock snooker competition, presented by Eamonn Holmes. Today's game is between Jimmy White and Dennis Taylor. The commentators are Ted Lowe and Willie Thorne (6360142)
3.35 Tom and Jerry Double Bill. Cartoons (4546974) **3.50 The All New Popeye Show** (i) (5292974) **4.15 Potsworth and Co**. Science fiction animation (i) (6413852) **4.35 The Worst Day of my Life**. The first of a new Australian comedy drama series centred on children who find the unimaginable happening. (Ceefax) (8740332)
5.00 Newsround (3601852) **5.10 Grange Hill**. Drama serial set in a secondary school (i). (Ceefax) (s) (354332) **Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster**
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. (Ceefax) Weather (871)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (351). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Eldorado. (Ceefax) (s) (9239)
7.30 Liverpool. Live coverage of the European Cup Winners' Cup, first leg match between Liverpool and Apollon Limassol at Anfield, introduced by Desmond Lynam. The commentators are John Motson and Trevor Brooking with studio analysis from Alan Hansen and Jimmy Hill (40626)
9.30 Main News with Martin Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (45851)



Victims of the flesh trade: women are deported (10.00pm)

10.00 Inside Story: The Women Trade.

- **CHOICE**: Chris Terrell's film is an expose, making much use of hidden cameras, of what it takes to call the flesh trade. Women filmed in shadow to avoid identification tell how they were recruited in eastern Europe or the Caribbean to work in clubs in Rotterdam and Antwerp. They thought they were going to be dancers or waitresses. Instead they were trapped into becoming strippers, or even worse, prostitutes. The programme includes a long interview with an alleged Mr Big of this disreputable trade, who blandly denies any knowledge of unsavoury goings-on. But the stomach-churning stories offered by his employees, enhanced by revealing undercover work by the Inside Story team posing as procurers, render his protestations hollow. This is an impressive piece of investigation into an unedifying subject. (Ceefax) (265055)
10.50 Film: The Breakfast Club (1985) starring Emilio Estevez. Comedy drama about five disparate young people who are forced to spend a Saturday high school detention together during which they break the rules, bare their souls and discover that they have more in common than attending the same school. Directed by John Hughes. (Ceefax) (10791516). Northern Ireland: European Soccer Special (Glenrath v. Marseille) 11.30-1.05am Film: Chato's Land: Wales. Sportsnight Wales (Cardiff v. Admira Wacker); 11.20 Film: The Breakfast Club 12.55 News and weather
12.25am Weather (1515659). Ends at 12.30
2.15 BBC Select: Accountancy Television (188712) 3.15 TV Edits (2965036). Ends at 4.00

BBC2

- 8.00 Breakfast News** (9112326)
8.15 Writers' Houses. Seamus Heaney visits Dove Cottage, the Lake District home of William Wordsworth (i) (9208177) **8.30 The Italians**. A portrait of Mauro Fiammenghini, a union representative at the Alfa Romeo factory near Milan (16448)
9.00 Daytime on 2. Educational programmes
2.00 News and weather followed by **You and Me** (i) (40729968)
2.15 Liberal Democrats Conference 92 from Harrogate. Animal protection and the future of the party following the general election are discussed this afternoon. Presented by Donald MacCormick, Vivian White and Ian MacWhirter. Includes News (Ceefax) and weather at 3.00 and 3.50 (89852239)
5.30 Inside the Russia House. A documentary about four advertising students from Newcastle upon Tyne who went to Moscow in November 1991 as part of an exchange scheme (i) (500)
6.00 Star Trek. Classic science fiction drama series starring William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy (i) (523041)
6.50 DEF II begins with **Wayne's World**. American comedy series. (Ceefax) (471581) **7.00 Teenage Diaries: The Daughter Sent From Hell**. The story of 15-year-old Jennifer who has to look after her mother who is severely disabled with multiple sclerosis (i) (25871)
7.40 The Shetland Sessions. Al Bain introduces music from the 1991 Shetland Folk Festival (541429)
8.10 The Un-Americans: To Hell With Truth.
 ● **CHOICE**: The three-part series on America's communist witch hunt concludes by examining the dilemma faced by thousands hauled before the Un-American Activities Committee of whether to name names, a scientist who could not face the ordeal committed suicide. His widow recalls finding the body and accusing the committee of helping to kill him. Not everyone showed the same courage. A maverick called Harvey Matusow, a former communist turned informant, told the committee the first piece of nonsense that came into his head and became a media celebrity. One of his "revelations" was that 126 comics were working for the Sunday New York Times when there were only 96 people on the staff. Matusow is unapologetic, determined to add his facetious footnote to what was hardly a laughing matter (164239)



Dressed to thrill: Cranhall, Swann, Cunningham (9.00pm)

9.00 ScreenPlay: A Little Bit of Lippy.

- **CHOICE**: Billied as "an outrageous Orson Welles comedy", Maryn Horne's drama will certainly give offence but has little of Orson's macabre humour. In fact to call *A Little Bit of Lippy* a comedy is to stretch the meaning of that word. A teenage wife (played by Alison Swann) discovers that her husband (Dany Cunniff) is a transvestite and beats a path back to Mum and Dad (Rachel Davies, Kenneth Cranham). But all is not well with the parents' n.r. art age, either, and Herford's script parallels the attempts of the two couples to resolve their difficulties. In doing so he counterpoints a naturalistic setting in the working-class north with frequent excursions into fantasy and illusion. The point is hard to determine, except perhaps that the real world is so humdrum we need to find excitement in our dreams. (Ceefax) (3886158)
10.10 Screenplay Firsts: Supper at Emmaus. An art historian teaches a class of students in front of Caravaggio's masterpiece "The Supper at Emmaus" (s) (655535)
10.30 Newsnight (702055)
11.15 The Late Show. News and media magazine (578790)
11.55 Weather (657516)
12.00 Open University: Social Scientists at Work (8726765). Ends at 12.55am

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am** (5665239)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw. Celebrity game show presented by Denny Baker (6332158) **9.55 Thames News** (7802877)
10.00 The Time ... The Place ... Topical discussion series (7169622)
10.40 This Morning. Magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes items on consumer affairs, family law and herbs. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather (9802429)
12.10 Allsorts. For the very young (i) (s) (5946806)
12.30 Lunchtime News with Dermot Mulgahan and Sonia Ruseler. (Oracle) Weather (2914535) **1.05 Thames News** (69236448)
1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama serial. (Oracle) (571061) **1.45 A Country Practice**. Medical drama serial set in the Australian outback (s) (570332)
2.15 Graham Kerr. The cook prepares poulet Basquaise (499413) **2.45 Take the High Road**. Highlands-based drama serial (5597910)
3.10 ITN News headlines (4606061) **3.15 Thames News headlines** (4605332) **3.20 The Young Doctors**. Drama serial set in an Australian city hospital (3718974)
3.50 Cartoon (i) (5433142) **3.55 Scooby Doo**. Cartoon (513413) **4.20 Gosh**. Starting Carol Lee-Scott as the green-headed witch (s) (8898771) **4.40 Woolf! Woolf!**. Adventures of a boy who turns into a dog at the most unexpected times (9364697)
5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz game for teenagers, presented by Bob Holness (9095245)
5.40 Early Evening News with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather (255)
6.00 Home and Away (i). (Oracle) (444142)
6.25 Thames News (803871)



Tears and accusations: the reading of Ted's will (6.40pm)

- 6.40 Coronation Street**. (Oracle) (237429)
7.10 The European Match. A double bill of live action. From Germany, Leeds United's European Cup first round, first leg match against Stuttgart. At about 9.00 there are highlights of the first half and live coverage of the second in the UEFA Cup first round game at Old Trafford between Manchester United and Torpedo Moscow (s) (4171351)
10.00 News at Ten with Alastair Stewart and Trevor McDonald. (Oracle) Weather (15719) **10.30 Thames News** (461351)
10.40 Film: Obsession (1976) starring Cliff Robertson and Genevieve Bujold. Thriller about a man whose wife and daughter are kidnapped on his tenth wedding anniversary and disappear without trace. Sixteen years later he goes to Florence where he first met his wife and encounters a young woman who is his wife's double. Directed by Brian De Palma (66127531)
12.30 Hollywood Report. Gossip from Tinseltown (54017)
1.00 Film: The Body Stealers (1969) starring George Sanders. Science fiction thriller about the disappearance of a number of Nato paratroopers. Directed by Gerry Levy (947475)
2.45 America's Top Ten (s) (4115)
3.15 Videofashion. The creations of some New York designers (29227475)
3.40 Quiz Night. Inter pub and club competition (74045501)
4.10 Grand Ole Opry. Country and western music from Nashville, Tennessee (10603307)
4.40 Fifty Years On (b.w.). Vintage newsclips (88335272)
5.00 Three's Company. American comedy series (46659)
5.30 ITN Morning News with Phil Morris (84746). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Channel 4 Daily** (5656581)
9.25 Schools (88911239)
12.00 The Grey Seal. The conflicting attitudes to the grey seal are explored. To the fishermen they are vermin, to conservationists they are a precious species (i) (s) (36790)
1.00 Sesame Street. Early learning series (49210)
2.00 Great Russian Writers. A profile of Alexander Blok. With English commentary and some subtitles. (Teletext) (7061)
2.30 Film: Dumberry was a Lady (1943) starring Red Skelton, Gene Kelly and Lucille Ball. Musical fantasy about a nightclub doorman attendant who wins a fortune in a lottery, proposes to the show's star, inadvertently drinks a Mickey Finn and dreams that he is in France at the court of Louis XV. Directed by Roy Del Ruth (87858061)
4.20 Magoo Makes News. Cartoon (6467697)
4.30 Countdown. Another round of the words and numbers game presented by Richard Whiteley. (516)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. The first of two programmes devoted to the topic of racism (7545784)
5.50 The Bunking Tails. Animated adventures of a team of sporting rabbits (s) (269993)
6.00 Treasure Hunt. Anneka Rice gushes around the Sussex countryside looking for hidden treasure. (Teletext) (32974)
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zennab Badawi. (Teletext) Weather (983245)
7.50 Football (799582)
8.00 Brookside. Soap set in suburban Merseyside. (Teletext) (s) (1697)



Partners in crime-solving: Thaw and Whiteley (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Inspector Morse: The Infernal Serpent**. The cerebral Oxford-educated policeman, in the first of four repeats, investigates the murder of an eminent scientist minutes before he was to give a controversial speech. Starring John Thaw, Kevin Whately and Geoffrey Palmer. (Teletext) (57887)
10.30 Packing Them In. The second in the alternative comedy series set in a variety theatre, hosted by Jenny Eclair, Frank Skinner and Kevin Eldon. Tonight's guests are Lily Savage, Kinky Friedman and Anner Eccentric (s) (893351)
11.15 Mojo Working. The last in the series profiles Jimi Hendrix (s) (730887)
11.45 Marc Bolan - The Legendary Years. A 15th anniversary tribute to the lead singer of T. Rex who died in a car crash in September 1977 (433142)
12.45am The Steve Allen Show (b.w.). Satirical 1950s American comedy series. The guests tonight include Sammy Davis Jr and Miss America of 1957 (69017)
1.15 Film: Seeta aur Geeta (1972). Hindi drama about twin sisters who have a double date with destiny. One resigns herself to fate while the other tackles it head-on. With Hema Malini, Dharmendra and Sanjeev Kumar. In Hindi with English subtitles (44020494). Ends at 4.20

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SKY ONE

- Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites
6.00am The Di Kat Show (68420790) **8.00 M. Peppercorn** (6225177) **8.30 Playhouse** (8270871) **9.10 Caravans** (7481158) **9.30 The Pyramid Game** (84361) **10.00 Let's Make a Deal** (28326) **10.30 The Bold and the Beautiful** (52264) **11.00 The Young and the Restless** (59568) **12.00 St. Elsewhere: Loss of Power** (14874) **1.00am E. Street** (59784) **1.30 America** (95355) **2.30 Another World** (2419603) **3.15 The Brady Bunch** (422333) **3.45 The Di Kat Show** (4737142) **8.00 Facts of Life** (5245) **8.30 Different Strokes: The Gymnas** (21201) **9.00 Baby Talk** (53511) **9.30 E. Street** (6663) **10.00 The Streets of San Francisco** (53993) **11.00 The Streets of San Francisco** (53993) **12.00 Pages from Skyline**

SKY NEWS

- Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites
6.00am Sunrise (8205177) **9.30 Our World** (52993) **10.00 Dayline** (29568) **10.30 Fashion TV** (53332) **11.30 International Business Report** (8625239) **11.45 Japan Business Today** (5482055) **12.30am Good Morning America** (96448) **1.30 Good Morning America** (97177) **2.30 Nightline** (10719) **3.30 Our World** (438771) **5.00 Live at Five** (5177) **6.30 Nightline** (15210) **7.30 Fashion TV** (40448) **9.30 Fashion TV** (80697) **1.30 America** (95355) **2.30 Another World** (2419603) **3.15 The Brady Bunch** (422333) **3.45 The Di Kat Show** (4737142) **8.00 Facts of Life** (5245) **8.30 Different Strokes: The Gymnas** (21201) **9.00 Baby Talk** (53511) **9.30 E. Street** (6663) **10.00 The Streets of San Francisco** (53993) **11.00 The Streets of San Francisco** (53993) **12.00 Pages from Skyline**

SKY MOVIES+

- Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites
6.00am Showtime (518351)
10.00 Hi Honey, I'm Dead! (1991)
 12.00 Pages from Skyline

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

- Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites
6.15am On the Town (1959): Musical about three sailors in New York (816871)
8.15 Paris in the Heart of France: Cartoon adventure (59077)
10.15 California: Carl Mahoney fights tyrannical despot Michael Peck (5256061)
11.15 Best Hit (1959): New Chiffon Heaton is persecuted by the Romans (1028788)
1.00am Support Your Local Sheriff (1955): Western spoof (2433953)
4.45 On Our Own: Four children travel from California to Arizona (372852)
6.15 Cheaper Art (1991): Cyril Shepherd's dead husband is reincarnated (168871)
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